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Toga-clad MKs light Hanukkah candles in a spoof of the Yom Ha'atzmaut torch-lighting ceremony. From left are Moshe Peled, Dedi Zucker, Tzahi Hanegbi, Haim Oron, Eliezer Zandberg, Dalia Itzik and Ran Cohen. (Isaac Harari)

MKs don togas for 9th day of Hannuka

DAN IZENBERG
THE Knesset let its hair down yesterday to celebrate the opening of a posh 350-seat auditorium in the new wing of the building.
Tzahi Hanegbi (Likud) played Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Tuvia Tzafir played Yasser Arafat, and Yosef Ba-Gad (Moleket) played with a toy tank during the festivities.
Many of the MKs displayed hidden talents. Meir Sheetrit (Likud) proved that he could easily exchange his political career for a job as a sing-along leader. He won a rousing and heartfelt ovation after leading an audience of MKs, Knesset staff, parliamentary aides, and reporters in two songs.
Hanegbi, one of the toga-clad MKs who lit the Hanukkah candles in a spoof of the Yom Ha'atzmaut torch-lighting ceremony, sounded

PM: No decision yet on redeployment and elections

'Some settlements are a catastrophe for security'

DAN IZENBERG
THE government has yet to decide whether it is ready to deal simultaneously with IDF redeployment and Palestinian elections, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said yesterday. If it decides to do so, he added, the negotiations with the Palestinians will take time.
"We must start negotiations, neither to drag matters out nor to rush headlong into anything," Rabin told reporters after a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.
"The Oslo agreement talks about stages. Before every stage, there must be negotiations. We have no interest in procrastinating. But we will apply the lessons we have learned until now to the agreement on the West Bank," he said.
Rabin ruled out the possibility that Israel and the Palestinians would drop the interim stage and begin final-status talks.
He revealed that the IDF has already spent NIS 35 million on preliminary plans for bypass roads around Tulkarm, Ramallah, and Hebron. Such roads, however, will not solve the problems of outlying Jewish settlements, he said.
"What can we do when some of the settlements were perhaps located according to political considerations, but from the point of view of security, they are a catastrophe," he reportedly told the committee members.
Rabin said that the security situation for Israelis in the territories has improved markedly this year. Of the soldiers and civilians killed in 1993, 44 died in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, compared with 18 so far this year.
On the other hand, 14 Israelis were killed in terrorist incidents inside the Green Line last year, compared with 49 so far this year. Thirty-five of the victims died in three suicide attacks.
Regarding Rabin's remarks on (Continued on Page 2)

Christopher here tonight in attempt to revive Syrian track

DAVID MAKOVSKY and DAN IZENBERG
US SECRETARY of State Warren Christopher, who is to arrive here this evening, is likely to revive the idea of Israeli and Syrian military officers joining ongoing quiet talks between the two countries, according to Foreign Ministry officials.
Christopher, who is expected to meet Syrian President Hafez Assad in Damascus today, will hold talks with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and other senior officials tomorrow.
Officials said it is also possible he may have a private dinner with Rabin tonight.
Syria is insisting that the peace talks be renewed in Washington, but Israel knows what will happen once the discussion there turns to the subject of withdrawal from the Golan Heights, Rabin told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.
"There are wide gaps between us in almost every area," Rabin reportedly said.
He listed three security aims Israel wants to achieve in a settlement with Syria: prevention of border incidents; reciprocal arrangements to prevent surprise attacks; and finding ways to reduce the security burden.
Rabin said the Syrians have proven over the past 19 years that they know how to deal with terrorism better than Egypt.
He reiterated his support for the deployment of US troops on the Golan, and said he knew nothing about statements by Chief of General Staff-designate Maj.-Gen. Amnon Shahak allegedly opposing the move. Shahak was quoted as saying there were other options for supervising a peace treaty with Syria.
While his focus will be advancing the Syrian track, Christopher will also deal with the Palestinian issue. He will see PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Gaza tomorrow afternoon. Christopher is tentatively scheduled to end his quick (Continued on Page 2)

Maj.-Gen. Danny Rothschild to retire

ALON PINKAS
MAJ.-Gen. Danny Rothschild, coordinator of activities in the territories and head of the delegation to the autonomy talks with the Palestinians, will retire from active service at his request, the army and defense minister's office confirmed yesterday.
A senior army source said that Brig.-Gen. Gadi Zohar, who heads the Civil Administration in Judea and Samaria, is most likely to succeed Rothschild, as *The Jerusalem Post* reported last month.
The source would not comment on the possibility that Rothschild, a career intelligence officer, may be appointed to head a state body under the jurisdiction of the Prime Minister's Office. The source said Rothschild "is planning his future and it will not surprise anyone if he chooses a career in business."
Army and Defense Ministry sources flatly denied that the retirement announcement is in any way linked to the current difficulties with the Palestinians on the continued implementation of the Oslo agreement.
"I have no grievances. I gave my decision a lot of thought and it was reached following lengthy discussions with Prime Minister Rabin. This is not a resignation nor a protest. I support the agreement with the Palestinians and believe that it is the only alternative," Rothschild said in a radio interview.
An official statement issued jointly by the IDF and the defense minister's office said that Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Chief of the General Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak, "agreed to Rothschild's request to terminate his tenure," and added that he will stay in his post until a replacement is appointed. The senior army source said Rothschild had been asking Rabin and Barak to retire



Rothschild: I have no grievances. (Vered Fe'et/UPPA)

"for some time."
Rothschild's role as top negotiator with the Palestinians will be

filled by Zohar, who will lead the talks on the elections for the Palestinian Authority self-rule council, due to begin today in Cairo.
This move, said army sources, means that Zohar will also likely replace Rothschild as coordinator of activities and be promoted to major-general.
Rothschild served in the IDF for 30 years, most of them in the Intelligence Branch. During the Gulf War he headed the Intelligence Branch Research Department, and later in 1991 he was appointed as the government coordinator in the territories.
In that capacity, he has been an active participant in the peace process since the 1991 Madrid Conference, when he was a member of the delegation to the talks what was then the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation.
Since the signing of the Oslo accords, Rothschild has headed the Israeli team negotiating their implementation.

Diplomatic relations with Jordan to begin Sunday

DAVID MAKOVSKY
ISRAEL and Jordan will inaugurate diplomatic relations this Sunday by hoisting their flags from temporary quarters in Amman and Tel Aviv, respectively, Israeli officials say.
Diplomats from both countries are still searching for suitable permanent embassy quarters, but both sides said they wanted to stick to the peace treaty which called for quick diplomatic ties.
The Jordanian embassy is expected to be temporarily located in Tel Aviv's Dan Hotel, while the Israeli embassy will be based in Amman's Forte Grand Hotel.
Meanwhile, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres are supposed to decide who will be Israel's first ambassador to Amman, during private consultations this morning.
Among those being mentioned are: Foreign Ministry deputy director-general Eitan Bentsur; deputy Mossad chief Ephraim Halevy; and head of IDF military intelligence Maj.-Gen. Uri Saguy.
Jordan has unofficially named Marwan Muasher, former spokesman of its peace delegation with Israel and head of the Jordanian information bureau in Washington.
A team of five Israeli diplomats yesterday continued discussions with Jordan's foreign ministry on final preparations for opening an embassy in Amman.

Electric Corp. must live up to new contract - or pay up

DAVID RUDGE
THE ISRAEL Electric Corporation will now pay customers money - if it fails to live up to the terms of the new contract it signed with the public yesterday.
According to the contract, the IEC will fix the main fuse of an urban apartment within two hours of receiving word of the problem in normal weather, and three hours in inclement weather. Failure to live up to the promise will result in the IEC paying the customer NIS 30 for each extra hour or part of an hour of waiting time.
The company also promised to tell its home customers about any planned power outage, lasting more than an hour, no later than noon of the day before the planned outage. Customers will receive NIS 30 if this commitment is violated.
The IEC also promised to handle customers' complaints within three weeks, and will pay penalties if it fails to do so.
The contract also outlines the level of service to be provided in various types of work. Disputes between the company and a client will be resolved by a mediation panel made up of Energy Ministry, Consumer Protection Authority, and Energy Ministry.
The contract was signed by Energy Minister Moshe Shahal, IEC Chairman Adi Amora, and Managing Director Moshe Katz for the company, Consumer Protection Authority legal adviser Prof. Sinai Deutsch, and Dr. Shlomo Bado-vender, who headed the committee that prepared it.
Shahal said a similar agreement would be signed with the gas companies. (Trim)

'Fake' gators prove all too real to Hamat Gader visitor

DAVID RUDGE
A MAN narrowly avoided being eaten by an alligator yesterday after jumping into the alligator and crocodile compound at the Hamat Gader hot springs, south of Tiberias, to show his family the beasts were not real.
Site manager Ronnie Lothan said the visitor, whom he described as mentally deranged, had taken a branch and started beating the tail of a four-meter long alligator lying on the grass.
The monster-sized reptile suddenly turned its head and snapped at the intruder who managed to jump back and fled from the compound by climbing over a fence.
"If this had happened in the summer when the alligators and crocodiles in the park are alert and react with lightning speed, he wouldn't have stood a chance," said Lothan.
"The fact that it is winter, and cold, acted in his favor because the

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Autonomy negotiations resume today in Cairo

DAVID MAKOVSKY and news agencies

THE team negotiating with the Palestinians will hold consultations with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres this morning before flying to Cairo.

The cabinet, meanwhile, is to continue its discussion of the direction of the peace process with the Palestinians tomorrow. Ministers have been having second thoughts about the Oslo accord, with some favoring moving ahead with next phase of the interim agreement only if IDF redeployment is canceled, and others believing the time has come to relocate settlements.

The negotiating team has yet to hold preparatory internal consultations. Nonetheless, one Foreign Ministry official insisted, "there has been plenty of contact between those involved."

He insisted the negotiating session will not be a waste of time, as "exploratory talks" can be held and procedural matters dealt with.

The team comprises Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir, Foreign Ministry legal adviser Joel Singer, IDF Planning Department head Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan, and Brig.-Gen. Gadi Zohar.

Zohar replaces Maj.-Gen. Danny Rotshchild, who announced his retirement yesterday.

Nabil Shaath will head the Palestinian team, the official said.

Senior PLO officials said Israel would destroy the

peace deal if it made changes in the Oslo accord without PLO approval.

Yasser Arafat convened his cabinet yesterday and a senior member, Saeb Erakat, called Israeli proposals for changing the accord "dangerous."

Arafat instructed his negotiators to hold firm and insist that Israel make good on its promise to redeploy the IDF so elections can be held, Palestinian officials said.

"We will make it clear to the Israeli side tomorrow that the whole agreement must be implemented, because we have had enough delays," Shaath said. Ahmed Korei (Abu Ala), PA head of economics, said a one-sided change "means Israel will destroy the DOP agreement."

"If there is any request to amend the accord, it should be done through an agreement between the two sides. If they change it unilaterally, it means they want to destroy it," he said.

Faisal Husseini, who heads Jerusalem affairs for the PA, said both sides must live with the accord, even if they are dissatisfied with parts of it.

"We are unhappy with some issues in the accord, which we want to change but will not be approved by the Israelis, and the Israelis want amendments which would not be accepted by us."

"The result of bringing up these issues now will be the destruction of the peace process," Husseini said.



US Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. John Shalikashvili and Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak salute yesterday during a ceremony marking the US general's arrival at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv. (Israel Sun)

NRP: Withdrawal from Palestinian population centers will endanger Jews throughout Israel

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE withdrawal of the IDF from major Palestinian population centers in Judea and Samaria will endanger Jews throughout the country, and not just Jews in the territories, because they will turn into launching pads for terror attacks within Israel, the National Religious Party faction declared yesterday.

After a party faction meeting on the security risks of an IDF withdrawal from the population centers, the NRP issued a statement stressing that nevertheless, "the first who will be endangered [by the IDF withdrawal] will be settlers in Judea

and Samaria, who pass through population centers on their way to Jerusalem and the coastal plain. We are not only referring to small settlements which the government is threatening to uproot, but also large settlement blocs, like Gush Etzion, Kiryat Arba, Bet El, Ofra and others."

As a result, the faction called upon the government to immediately complete the roads bypassing major Palestinian population centers in the territories. Such roads, the party faction said, "will provide basic security to Jewish settlers."

Shalikashvili to discuss US Golan deployment

ALON PINKAS

VISITING US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. John Shalikashvili is expected to raise in his meetings here the possibility of deploying US troops in the Golan Heights as part of a broader international observer force that might be deployed there if Israel and Syria reach an agreement, army sources said yesterday.

Shalikashvili yesterday began his visit here with extensive briefings given by IDF General Staff officers on Israeli security concepts and joint Israeli-US re-

search and development programs.

Shalikashvili was welcomed in a full military ceremony at the IDF General Headquarters in Tel Aviv, after which he held his first working meeting with Chief of General Staff, Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak.

Shalikashvili and his aides were then briefed by Barak, Planning Branch Head Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan and Intelligence

Branch Chief Maj.-Gen. Uri Saguy on Israel's national security concept, the perceived threats to Israel, the arms race, the "Arrow" missile development program, the Iranian threat and the peace process.

Chief of General Staff-designate, Maj.-Gen. Amnon Shahak, Air Force commander Maj.-Gen. Herzl Budinger, Navy commander Maj.-Gen. (Admiral) Ami Ayalon, and the IDF De-

fense Attache in the US, Maj.-Gen. Giora Rom all participated in the briefings.

Shalikashvili later visited an air force base and observed a display of jet planes and attack helicopters, and a live demonstration of the scrambling of an F-15 squadron.

Today he will meet with Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and will attend a live-fire exercise at Tz'elaim. Later in the day, he will visit Yad Vashem.

DECISION

(Continued from Page 1)

the placement of some of the settlements, Uri Ariel, head of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, said Rabin was responsible for the placement of many of the settlements - both in his capacity as prime minister in the 1970s and defense minister in the 1980s - and that if he has any complaints, "he should complain to himself."

According to Ariel, Rabin approved many of the settlements set up near densely populated Arab areas.

"If anything is a catastrophe, it is this government," Ariel said. "And I'm not the only one saying this. You hear it from Haggai Merom, Avraham Burg, and Binyamin Ben-Eliezer. Rabin is looking for someone to lash out at, so he attacks us. We are his scapegoat."

Referring to last week's terrorist murder of Liat Gabai in Afula, Rabin said it would require holding up traffic for several hours each day to effectively search every car crossing the Green Line. In the Afula incident, the terrorist took a taxi to the Green Line, but got out before the checkpoint, crossed into Israel on foot, and then took another taxi to Afula.

"Arafat is not taking enough action against Hamas," Rabin reportedly told the committee. But he somewhat moderated his criticism when addressing reporters afterwards.

afterwards.

"The Palestinian Authority has been in existence for eight months," he said. "It is having birth pangs, as well as problems in coping. I would expect better results in two areas - the fight against terrorism and the handling of internal economic matters."

Rabin revealed that Israel is holding talks with the PA over the appearance of armed Fatah members in Gaza, following the battle between Palestinian Police and Hamas supporters more than two weeks ago.

"According to the Cairo agreement, there is supposed to be only one armed force, and that is the Palestinian Police," said Rabin. "Arafat has apparently adopted a new concept of arming Fatah groups for purposes of deterrence and confrontation."

"This is a mistaken concept, which is not in accordance with the agreement. We are studying this matter with them. It looks like there are some situations in which a political entity which is not armed is in trouble."

Rabin also said the government would not demand that the PLO abrogate the paragraphs of the Palestinian Covenant calling for Israel's destruction as a precondition for beginning negotiations on elections and redeployment.

Herb Keston contributed to this report.

CHRISTOPHER

(Continued from Page 1)

trip to the region Thursday morning.

In response to a request by President Bill Clinton in Damascus last month, Assad indicated a willingness to allow military officials to join ongoing private talks in Washington between Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich and Syrian Ambassador Walid Muallem, officials said.

However, Rabin told the cabinet this week that the plan was torpedoed once it was leaked to the press.

When asked about the prospects of progress during Christopher's trip, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told reporters in Budapest, "Syria? No, I am very much in doubt."

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin renewed his periodic call for stepped-up US involvement. He said peace negotiations with Syria could take "five or six years," unless there is deeper involvement by the US.

"If we continue the process as it is, and if we had five or six years, we could perhaps arrive at peace," Beilin told Israel Radio.

"Time dedicated by American decision-makers to the Israeli-Syrian issue may bring about a solution within a shorter time. The best possible thing would be if there were Syrian willingness to hold direct high-level talks, or if there were American involvement in much more extended and regular shuttle diplomacy."

Meanwhile, a new poll released yesterday shows that nearly 70 percent of the public is against the stationing of American troops on the Golan Heights in the framework of a peace agreement with Syria, and over 60% is against a full withdrawal from the Heights.

The poll, conducted for the Begin-Sadat (Besa) Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University, showed that while 23.2% support full withdrawal from the Golan in exchange for peace, only 15.1% support posting US soldiers there.

The survey also showed that a growing number of people are skeptical that the negotiations with Syria and the Palestinians will lead to a comprehensive solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

Seventy percent of the public doubts that an agreement with Syria will bring a comprehensive solution (a rise of 23.7% from a June survey), while 60% expressed similar doubts about the talks with the Palestinians (10% more than in June).

Nonetheless, there is little change in public support for continuing negotiations on both tracks. Some 57% support negotiations with the PLO, while 40% expressed unreserved support for the way the government is handling negotiations with Syria.

The poll was conducted by the Modi'in Ezrahai firm for the Besa Center as part of a multi-year research project on public opinion on national security issues. Results were obtained by conducting face-to-face interviews with 1,204 Jewish Israelis from November 11 to November 25. The margin of error is 2.9%.

Non-kosher meat ban passes preliminary stage

DAN IZENBERG

THE Knesset yesterday approved four private-member bills in preliminary reading that would ban the import of all non-kosher meat.

Two bills passed by a vote of 47 to 14 and the results of the other two votes were similar.

The bills were submitted after Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish announced recently that he would begin granting import licenses to private meat importers on January 1, 1995. Under the current law, only the import of frozen non-kosher meat is banned.

The omission of other meats in the law, which was passed several months ago to appease Shas and bring it back into the coalition,

was apparently an oversight. Shas threatened to join the opposition permanently if the ban on non-kosher meat was not expanded.

Harish told the Knesset his decision to issue licenses to non-kosher meat importers was "a logical extension of the policy of privatization of the meat-importing sector." He said he would have preferred "that the representatives of the religious parties rely on the free choice of the Israeli public, which prefers kosher meat."

Nevertheless, the government endorsed two of the four proposals, presented by Shlomo Benizri (Shas) and jointly by Moshe Katav (Likud) and Eli Dayan (Labor).

Assad convinces Lebanese PM to withdraw his resignation

DAVID RUDGE

SYRIAN president Hafez Assad yesterday brought an end to Lebanon's political crisis after directly intervening in the dispute between Parliament speaker Nabih Berri and Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, which led to Hariri's tendering his resignation.

Reports from the region said that Assad met with the two after previous mediation efforts by Syrian Vice-President Abdel Halim Khaddam had failed to break the deadlock.

The reports said that a compromise agreement had been thrashed out and Hariri had rescinded his resignation. Hariri, a Sunni Moslem, has been at the forefront of efforts to rehabilitate Lebanon's battered economy after the 1975-90 civil war, ever since he accepted the Prime Minister's post just over two years ago.

His forthright manner in trying to push through the reforms he considers necessary to ensure the

success of his ambitious plans to rebuild the country has brought him into conflict with the old-style politicians led by Berri, who is also head of the pro-Syrian Amal Shi'ite movement.

An announcement issued after Assad's meeting between the two said they had agreed to set aside their differences and work for Lebanon's reconstruction.

No further details were given, although it appeared that Hariri had gained Syrian approval for his plans which involve a direct approach rather than having to go through the Parliamentary and legislative procedures advocated by Berri.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Warren Christopher's current visit in the region is already appearing to have some effect on the ground, with no attacks by Hizballah or other organizations reported against the security zone yesterday, at least until press time.

Yassin gives instructions aimed at recovering Sa'adon's body

BILL HUTMAN

IMPRISONED Hamas spiritual leader Ahmed Yassin yesterday gave instructions to Ahmed Tibi, senior advisor to PLO leader Yasser Arafat, and Sheikh Abdallah Darwish, head of the Israeli-Arab Islamic Movement, aimed at securing the return of slain soldier Ilan Sa'adon's body to his family.

Tibi and Darwish met with Yassin in prison yesterday morning. They declined to say exactly what the instructions were, but vowed to act on them "within the coming days."

"He wants the body returned to the family immediately, to put an end to their pain and suffering," Tibi said.

However, Yassin rejects any link between his being released and the return of Sa'adon's body, who was kidnapped and murdered by Hamas terrorists, Tibi added. Yassin rejects that linkage on grounds, that "he, personally,

does not directly control the matter," Tibi said.

Yassin's release from jail has been discussed for several months by government officials, with proposals including linking such a release with the return of Sa'adon's body.

Tibi and Darwish were to meet with Arafat to report on their meeting with Yassin. "Yassin's release would be to the benefit of both sides," Tibi said.

Meanwhile, Yassin strongly condemned the reenactment of the kidnapping of slain soldier Nahshon Wachsmann on Sunday by Hamas activists in Gaza, according to Darwish.

A videotape of the reenactment played on television Sunday night showed Gaza youths laughing and voicing support for the kidnapping and murder, as the activists, including one dressed as Wachsmann, acted out the kidnapping.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two die on roads

Two people died in separate but similar road accidents yesterday. Amos Raveh, 52, of Kfar Adumim, was killed when his car swerved into oncoming traffic for unknown reasons and collided head-on with a truck on the Jerusalem-Jericho road. Shmuel Wiener, 42, of Shavei Shomron, also died when his car swerved out of its lane and crashed head-on into a truck on the Nablus-Tulkarm road. The truck driver was moderately injured.

Hamas victor in student elections

Hamas scored a landslide victory in student council elections at Islamic University in Gaza yesterday, receiving 98 percent of the vote.

The ballot was boycotted by supporters of PLO chief Yasser Arafat.

Netanyahu to meet Hussein today

Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu is due to meet Jordan's King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan in Amman today.

Netanyahu will be accompanied by his aide Shai Bazak, and Prof. Dore Gold. They will cross the Allenby Bridge and proceed to Amman for the talks, and will return to Israel immediately afterward.

PLO chief Yasser Arafat will meet Hussein next week in a summit expected to ease tensions that arose over Jordan's peace agreement with Israel. Nabil Abu Irdeineh, a PLO spokesman, said yesterday.

TA dancers refused Egyptian visas

The Tel Aviv dance company Shalom Tel Aviv did not leave yesterday for Cairo, where it was to perform at an international business conference, because the Egyptian Embassy refused to grant the dancers visas.

The head of the city's Music and Dance Department, Uzi Adulam, who was to accompany group to Egypt, told Israel Radio that the visa requests were submitted several days ago, and he had no idea why the requests were refused.

The radio reported that several high-level officials tried to intercede with the embassy on the dance group's behalf, but the Egyptians refused to give in.

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HEALTH AND BEAUTY SUPPLEMENT

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'Over 30% of capital land annexed after Six Day War used for Jewish housing'

OVER 30 percent of land annexed to Jerusalem after the Six Day War has been expropriated for use in Jewish housing developments, according to a report released yesterday by the newly formed Ir-Shalem group.

The report shows that "the Palestinian population in Jerusalem is included in the public from which lands are expropriated, but is not included in the public which the expropriations are meant to serve."

Ir-Shalem, a non-partisan group although closely connected with Peace Now, alleged that governments since Jerusalem's reunification have worked to take "control of private and public Arab properties in east Jerusalem."

It listed a series of expropriations carried out from 1968 - when 3,345 dunams of east Jerusalem land were taken for the construction of the French Hill and Ramat Eshkol neighborhoods - through

BILL HUTMAN

1991, when 1,850 were expropriated for construction at Har Homa of a new southeastern Jerusalem Jewish neighborhood, also on lands annexed in 1967.

The report, released at a Jerusalem press conference, fails to note that some land in Har Homa was owned by Jews, wrongly implying that all the land expropriated in east Jerusalem was Arab-owned.

The report points out that the land was expropriated for "public use," although in not a single case was it used for Arab housing developments. Instead, a number of large Jewish neighborhoods were built there.

Some 33,500 units were built on the expropriated land, according to figures from August included in the report. Another 13,300 units are planned for the expropriated land. All are in Jewish neighborhoods.

neighborhoods.

Ir-Shalem is the spin-off of a similar group formed by Peace Now, and includes several leading Peace Now activists including Prof. Galia Golan, Prof. Mordechai Bar-On, and Sali Reshef.

Prof. Amnon Sela and Jerusalem attorney Danny Seidemann, neither directly connected with Peace Now, are also on the group's board and also attended yesterday's press conference.

Balding men may get fringe benefit from prostate shrinking drug

JUDY SIEGEL

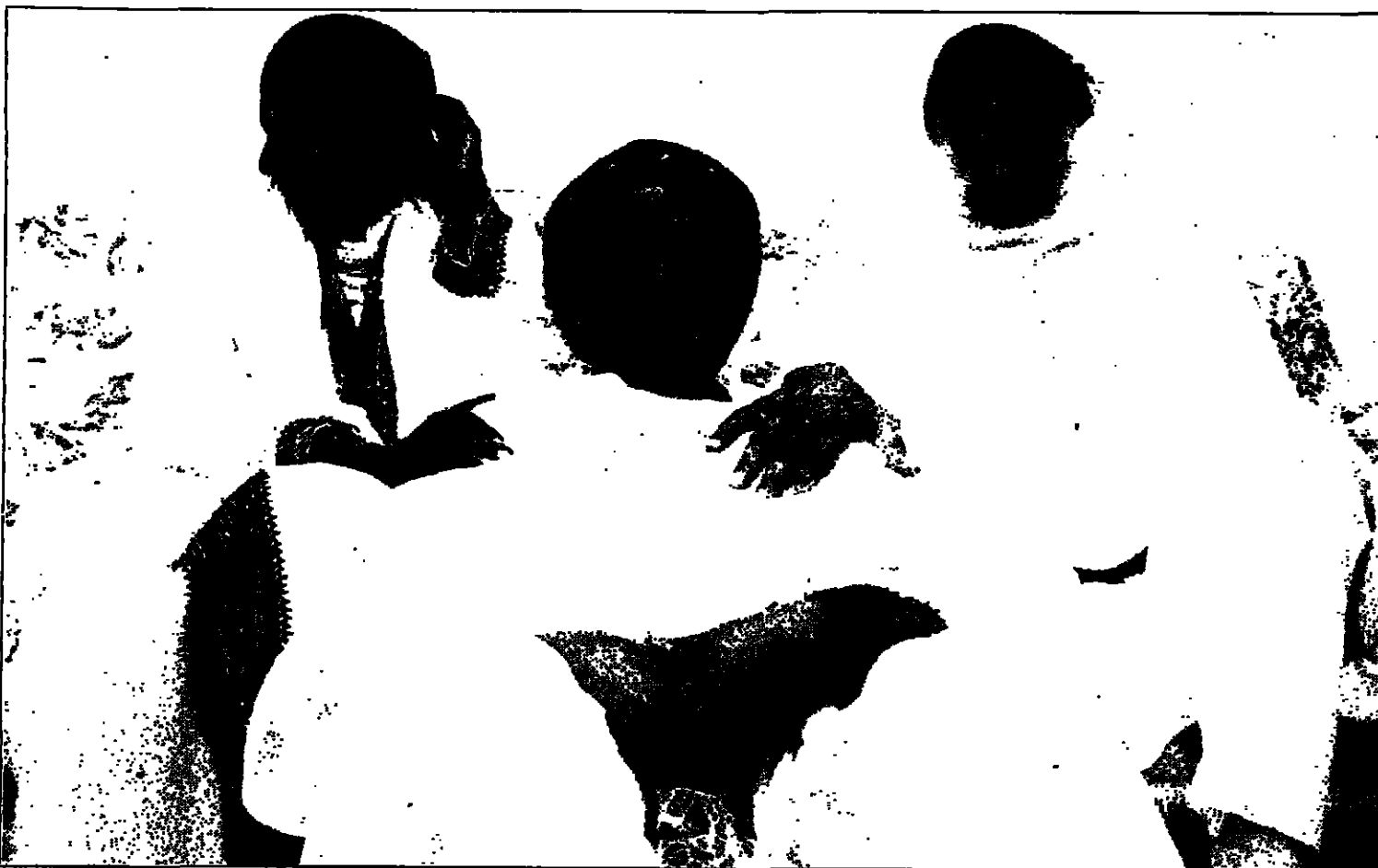
A DRUG already used for shrinking prostates shows great promise in growing hair on the pates of balding men. The oral medication, which has not been named, is about to be tested in double-blind studies of 20 men in the early stages of balding.

Prof. Sara Brenner, head of Ichilov Hospital's dermatology department, said yesterday that she expects the drug will be a breakthrough in the treatment of alopecia. Ichilov was one of 15 centers around the world, and the only one in Israel, to be chosen for the clinical testing. Men in the early stages of hair loss are invited to apply. Half of them will take the medication, while the rest will be given a placebo. The drug is believed to halt balding and cause hair to grow by hindering the production of an enzyme that takes a major role in both male balding and benign swelling of the prostate. Men who took the drug for their prostate condition, even elderly men, were found to grow hair.

Asked whether in the years to come, baldness would become obsolete, Brenner smiled and said she hoped so. She refused to name the drug, which is made by a US-based pharmaceutical giant, out of fear that balding men without an enlarged prostate would demand a prescription from their doctors without its effects being monitored. Although studies so far have shown that side effects are minute, more substantial research is needed to rule this out.

Until now, the only medication that has been proven to grow hair in balding men and women is Rogaine, which is applied topically on the head. But it works in fewer than half, and its effects disappear when the patient stops using it.

No comment was available on whether the drug may help balding women as well.



Yassu Zamru, 110, his wife Yazzernash, 105, and their 73-year-old daughter Amratch recently moved from the Lod absorption center, where they had been living since arriving here from Ethiopia six years ago, to a private apartment. The move was made possible by a special Absorption Ministry mortgage program. The couple has 124 grandchildren. (Yitzhak Elharar/Scoop 80)

Sarid charges IDF dog handler with staging dog fights at army base kennel

LIAT COLLINS

ENVIRONMENT Minister Yossi Sarid has filed an official complaint with the military judge advocate-general Brigadier General Ilan Schiff, charging the Tel Hashomer army base chief dog handler with abusing several animals. Sarid asked that the military police investigate the matter.

The chief dog handler, a civilian employee whose name was not released for publication, allegedly organized dog fights and took bets of NIS 10 to 15 on their outcome.

The story was published yesterday on Israel Radio and in *Yediot Aharonot* following complaints by soldier Yariv Rozenwasser. Rozenwasser, a dog handler at the base, said that he had repeatedly complained about the situation. The chief dog handler was eventually tried by his superiors and fined two days' wages.

According to Rozenwasser, he was punched,

spat at and cursed by his boss as a result of the complaint and eventually transferred to another site.

In a letter to Schiff, Sarid noted that under the Anti-Cruelty to Animals Law which passed in the Knesset this year, torture, cruelty and specifically pitting animals against each other are illegal and punishable by a three-year prison sentence.

Sarid, as the minister responsible for enforcing this law, said that the man was obviously found guilty by his commanding officer as his pay was docked. "But this punishment makes a mockery of the law and does not match the severity of the act."

"It is also clear that a man like this cannot in any way continue to be in charge of the kennels. Someone who is cruel to soldiers cannot

continue to be their officer and someone cruel to animals cannot continue to look after them," Sarid said. He also called for the soldier to be reinstated to his position on the base.

Since Rozenwasser is a regular soldier he is not allowed to give interviews but his family has spoken out on his behalf. His mother, Ora Rozenwasser, said yesterday: "Yariv is equally and highly sensitive to animals and people. I would like to see the similar level of sensitivity towards soldiers like him. I think the head dog handler should have been the one forced to leave the base, and not my son."

The Judge Advocate-General's Office has promised to look into the matter, while a complaint filed by Rozenwasser's family to the army is also being looked into. The IDF Spokesman's Office said they would take firm steps in any case which surfaces regarding mistreatment of animals.

Namir to prepare plan dealing with immigrants' problems

A COMMITTEE set up by Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir will be drawing up a detailed plan for dealing with the welfare and employment problems of new immigrants within the next two months, the ministry announced yesterday.

Namir set up the committee on Sunday, following a meeting she held with several mayors and local council heads whose localities had absorbed tens of thousands of immigrants. She described the reports she got at the meeting as "very serious."

The committee is headed by Labor and Social Affairs Ministry Director-General Avraham Ben-Shoshan. "The budgets that are given to the local authorities for dealing with new immigrants is not sufficient," said Namir, adding that in the coming year her ministry's total budget for immigrant needs will total NIS 66 million.

"There needs to be a feeling that the ministry really cares about absorption," Namir said at the meeting in Jerusalem.

The mayors and local council heads at the meeting included those of Carmiel, Ashdod, Ra'anana, and Sderot; a city council member from Haifa also attended.

The local officials gave detailed reports on absorption programs in their towns, and stressed the need for extra help in dealing with elderly immigrants, youth at risk, single-parent families, and those who needed jobs or job training. (Itim)

Knesset panel debates Nazi victims compensation

EVELYN GORDON

THE large differential between Treasury payments to Nazi victims and those the victims can receive directly from Germany is a "blemish," and the Treasury should work to rectify the situation, State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat told the Knesset State Control Committee yesterday.

The committee was discussing an outcome of the 1952 reparations agreement with Germany, whereby the Germans paid Israel a large sum of money in exchange for a promise that no Nazi victims then residing in Israel would sue the German government for compensation.

Those who moved to Israel after 1952, however, were not bound by this agreement, and soon discovered that they could get three times as much or more by suing Germany as they could by accepting the compensation offered by the Treasury.

Those compensated by the Treasury, the committee was told, get a few hundred shekels a month, while those compensated by Germany get NIS 2,000 a month or more.

MK Avraham Herschson (Likud), who initiated the committee discussion, has also petitioned the

High Court of Justice on the subject. The court issued a show-cause order on the petition on the spot, and the hearing is to be in a couple of weeks.

Ben-Porat said she did not want to express an opinion on the issue while it is pending before the High Court.

However, she added, the differential between the payments was certainly a "blemish" to which it was "hard to be reconciled."

"And, unrelated to the High Court petition, it is permissible for the Finance Minister and the government to use their public judgment and their natural sense of justice to close these gaps," she said, according to a press statement issued by the committee.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat told the committee that the Treasury has taken many steps to improve the life of Nazi victims, including replacing the director of the office in charge of helping them, due to the numerous complaints about him.

Shohat also said the 1995 budget includes NIS 680 million for Nazi victims, which will be used to aid some 31,000 people, including 5,000 recent immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

Divorce refuser dies after 32 years in jail

RAINE MARCUS

YEHYE Yehye, who had been in jail for 32 years for refusing to grant his wife a divorce, the longest time actually served by a prisoner, died in Assaf Harofeh Hospital late Sunday night.

Yehye was jailed in 1962 because he refused to give his wife Ora a *get*. A court order kept him in jail until he agreed to divorce her, but he refused.

His age was listed as 70, but Prisons Service sources said he was probably 10 years older.

A few years ago, rabbis and other public figures made every effort to persuade Yehye to give in, but failed.

Even though the couple has lived apart for a long time, Ora Yehye must now sit *shiva* and go through the halachic process of mourning, rabbis ruled yesterday.

During his 32 years in jail, Yehye was allowed out only twice - once when rabbis took him to the Western Wall to try and persuade him to grant the divorce, and again 10 days ago when he was taken from the hospital at Ramle's Ayalon Prison to Assaf Harofeh after suffering a stroke. He had been in a coma since.

Ben-Yair to look into affirmative action legislation

EVELYN GORDON

ATTORNEY-GENERAL Michael Ben-Yair will look into preparing affirmative action legislation for minorities in the civil service, he told the Knesset Economics Committee yesterday.

The committee was discussing the issue of minorities in the civil service at the request of Benny Temkin (Meretz), who noted that Arabs constitute only about 1% of the civil service, despite being about one-fifth of the population.

In April, 1994, Temkin added, the government decided to allocate 80 civil service positions without tender to Arabs and Druse. But while this was a positive step, he said, it was no more than a beginning.

Limor Livnat (Likud) objected that it seemed unjust to reserve slots for Arabs and Druse but not for other groups, such as women - who constitute 62% of the civil service but only 4% of the four top ranks.

Furthermore, she said, the move appears to violate a legal ban against discriminating on the basis of race, sex or religion. "The intention is good, and

there is no disagreement about it," she said. "But the deeds are not good if they circumvent existing laws and procedures."

Ben-Yair said that for a relatively small number of positions, such as the 80 slots currently being allocated, it was possible to get around the legal problem thanks to a broad interpretation of the anti-discrimination law by the High Court of Justice, which has ruled it is meant mostly to prevent unequal representation, rather than the correction of social inequalities.

However, he said, he would hesitate to advise a broad use of affirmative action without appropriate legislation.

The Justice Ministry has been considering such legislation for some time, he added, because a situation in which close to 20% of the population is virtually unrepresented in the civil service is clearly intolerable.

Committee chairman Gideon Patt (Likud) agreed that affirmative action should be backed by clear legislation, and asked Ben-Yair to pursue it.

MKs told about anti-car theft devices

HAIM SHAPIRO

ELECTRONIC devices that would enable the police to trace stolen cars would range in price from \$300 to \$500, according to MK Gideon Saguy, chairman of the Knesset subcommittee on insurance.

Saguy said that several such devices were demonstrated by manufacturers' representatives at a meeting of the subcommittee yesterday.

He said that the committee has asked that the Police Ministry organize a program to fight car thefts using such devices, in coordination with other bodies, including the Transport Ministry, the Customs and VAT authorities,

the Justice Ministry and the insurance companies.

The problem was not just a criminal and economic one, but also a diplomatic one, Saguy said, claiming that the Palestinian Authority uses stolen Israeli cars in the light of day. It is the public who pays for thefts in the form of higher insurance premiums and incomplete compensation.

The fact that cars are stolen so easily, he added, besmirches the public image of the police.

Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz told the committee that the problem of stolen cars was not unique to Israel.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Smoking in bed cause of fatal fire

Michael Kazashvili, 51, of Beersheba, burned to death early yesterday morning when a fire broke out in his apartment. His 22-year-old daughter was lightly injured and was treated by Magen David Adom.

A preliminary investigation determined that the fire was caused when Kazashvili fell asleep with a lit cigarette in his hand. Amir Rozenblit

17 suspected drug dealers arrested in Taiba

In a massive raid on the triangle village of Taiba early yesterday, 200 policemen from the Sharon district arrested 17 suspected drug dealers.

Over the past five months, police used an undercover agent, himself a drug addict, to assist them in gathering information on dealers in the village.

Police seized a quantity of drugs, property believed stolen and three cars allegedly bought from drug profits.

Vandals try to torch council head's car

An attempt was made to torch the car of Mizpeh Ramon local council head Sami Shoshan early yesterday morning.

Someone poured gasoline on the car's tires and set them alight. A neighbor noticed the flames and called police, who arrived and put out the fire.

The car was only lightly damaged. Several suspects were taken in for questioning and released, while two have not yet been located. Itim

700 Fijian pilgrims expected

A group of 700 Christian pilgrims are to come here from the Pacific island of Fiji, according to Temasa Tours, which is organizing their visit.

Amnon Segov, director of Temasa, said that the reservations came following an Israeli tourism seminar held in Fiji in conjunction with the Israeli embassy there. Segov, who recently returned from a visit to the Far East, said that the seminar was attended by 250 clergy, travel agents and foreign diplomats. According to Israeli Ambassador Shmuel Moyal, a considerable number of groups are being organized to come to Israel in 1996, for the 3,000th anniversary of Jerusalem.

First nursery school for blind opens

A nursery school for blind children, the country's first, was officially opened in Petah Tikva on Sunday. Sponsored by the Association for Blind Children, the school is on a 500 sq. m. plot and includes three classrooms, a garden, special assistance rooms, and a lecture hall. Itim

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the 10 of spades, 10 of hearts, nine of diamonds, and 10 of clubs.

Supreme Court approves plan to rebuild apartment building destroyed by Scud

THE Supreme Court yesterday overturned a lower court decision which had prevented the residents of a Ramat Gan apartment house, destroyed by an Iraqi Scud missile, from rebuilding.

The 19 apartment owners and the Ramat Gan municipality wanted to replace the 1950s building with a larger building, doubling the size of the original apartments. To finance the building, they would let the contractor build extra apartments, which he agreed to accept instead of cash payment for his work.

Two of the apartment owners, however, objected to the plan. When the other residents and the city went to the Land Registry Office to obtain an order under Paragraph 60 of the Property Law - which specifies that if a building is destroyed by hostile action, the approval of only 75 percent of the residents is needed to rebuild it - forcing the objectors to agree to

the scheme. The objectors filed suit in Tel Aviv District Court, arguing that the rebuilding plan did not fall under the scope of Paragraph 60. The court upheld them.

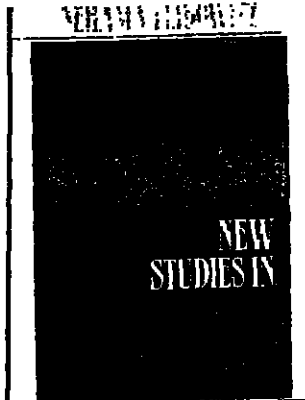
The Supreme Court, however, ruled that the building was certainly destroyed by hostile action - a Scud missile - and that Paragraph 60 did apply.

Moreover, Justice Mishael Cheshin said that the words "to erect the building anew," which appear in Paragraph 60, do not mean that in the 1990s a building has to be rebuilt as a carbon copy of the 1950s original. (Itim)

The Jerusalem SPCA announces changes in clinic times. The clinic at the Atarot shelter will be open Sundays and Thursdays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. instead of Wednesdays.

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Fire chief: Home fire deaths could have been prevented

DAVID RUDGE

FIRE and Rescue Service Commissioner Salomo Cohen yesterday issued a stern warning to the public, following the death of nine people in home fires during the recent cold spell.

He stressed that all the deaths could have been prevented if people had adhered to "common sense" safety precautions.

But first he called on the public not to think that "it can't happen to me, not in my home."

"It's like road accidents. Everybody thinks it won't happen to him, and every year we have people killed, others badly burned or injured from smoke inhalation, and damage caused to property," he said.

"Sadly, nine people have been killed so far this winter - four over the past few days - compared to 19 last year and 32 in the winter before that."

Cohen noted that most of the deaths and injuries had been caused by accidents relating to the use of heaters of various types - kerosene, gas, and electric.

He urged the public to take the following precautions:

□ Keep all heaters away from flammable materials, including curtains, carpets, mattresses, and furniture.

□ Keep children and pets away from heaters of all kinds, especially kerosene and gas.

□ Check all heaters for leaks and breakages, or short circuits in the case of electric heaters and electric blankets, before use.

□ Ensure that all heaters are turned off before going to sleep.

and never leave electric blankets switched on.

□ Always allow some ventilation in rooms where heaters are used.

□ Electric blankets should never be switched on while folded.

□ Only purchase appliances which meet national safety standards and are marked appropriately.

In the event of a fire breaking out in the home, the Fire and Rescue Service has issued the following guidelines:

□ First and foremost dial 102, the direct line to the fire service, and then try to douse the flames without endangering life or limb.

□ If there are shouts from outside near the handle to the front door, the fire is outside and the door is hot. Do not open it. Retreat inside, closing all other doors, and go to a window overlooking a street and attract attention by shouting and waving.

□ In the event of smoke, place a wet towel or rag at the bottom of the door from which the smoke is entering, close all other doors, and follow the previous procedures.

Cohen stressed it is important for people to attract attention, so they would be visible to firemen.

He noted that the Fire and Rescue Service had launched an information campaign at the start of the winter under the slogan: "You Can Prevent Fires."

"People seem to think that the fire service is mainly kept busy during the summer fighting forest fires, but in the winter, we are not talking about trees but lives," Cohen added.

Sheves: Albeck's opinion guided me in Nebi Samwil case

SHIMON SHEVES, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, yesterday testified that the opinion of Pina Albeck, formerly in charge of the civil department in the State Attorney's Office, guided him in his handling of the Nebi Samwil affair, and not any discussions at ministry offices.

Sheves, who completed his testimony at the ongoing trial of former interior minister Aryeh Deri in Jerusalem District Court, served at the time as then defense minister Yitzhak Rabin's assistant for settlement. He said he saw nothing unusual in then deputy agriculture minister Avraham Drechsler asking to be present at a meeting on the Nebi Samwil affair.

Deri's lawyer, Dav Av-Yitzhak, asked Sheves if there was anything he had not told the court about the

short meeting he had with Deri. Sheves said he had recounted everything he could recall.

Sheves said he had come to the police with the files they asked him to bring regarding his involvement with the matter. He said he could not recall which documents were involved, and whether he had noted which ones he had turned over.

During re-direct examination by the prosecution, Sheves said Deri had expressly asked him to allocate alternative land to the non-profit organization he represented, saying it was impossible to build on the original site. Sheves said he did not recall whether Deri told him at the meeting who opposed building at the original site, but he believed then that the opposition was legal in nature. (Ifm)

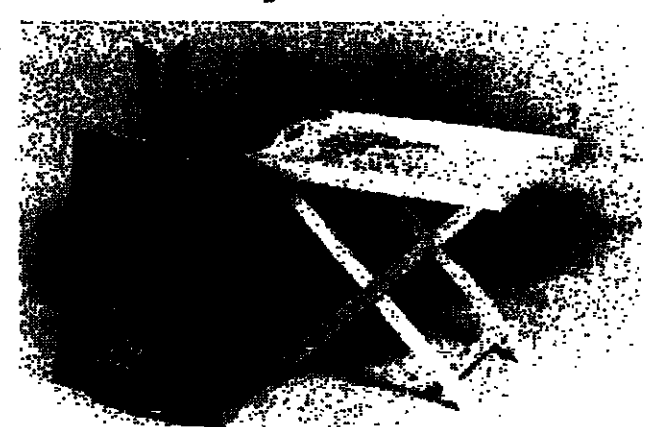
Court hears testimony on the expenses of Dinitz's wife

The point at which former Jewish Agency chairman Simcha Dinitz refused to pay his wife's expenses on trips abroad was the subject of yesterday's testimony in Jerusalem District Court.

Agency emissary Department head Uri Ilash, being cross-examined for the second day by Dinitz's attorney Uri Wagnan, rejected Wagnan's assertion that Dinitz had, from the beginning, asserted he was not required to pay for his wife's expenses on official trips.

Ilash said that at first, Dinitz had agreed to cover his wife's expenses, but later reneged, saying he was not subject to the law that officials cannot take spouses abroad on official business more than once every three years. (Ifm)

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Survivors from the 'Achille Lauro' wait to disembark as they arrive at Mombasa, Kenya yesterday. (AP)

'Achille Lauro' survivors complain about chaos

MOMBASA, Kenya (Reuters) - Survivors of the Achille Lauro disaster sang music hall classics as they sailed into Kenya's port of Mombasa yesterday but complained the liner was a death trap and crew members had scrambled to save themselves first.

"It was a very old boat. It shouldn't have sailed," said Briton Raymond Lofthouse from Yorkshire who was with his wife Wendy when the Italian liner caught fire off Somalia last Wednesday.

Survivors painted a scene of confusion which followed the outbreak of fire in the engine room of the ship built in 1947.

Word of the fire was spread by stewards running through corridors banging on cabin doors because the alarm systems did not seem to work, passengers said.

"I know one couple who did not hear the banging but knew something was wrong when they smelled smoke. The fire doors had been closed, so they couldn't get out," said Allan Shaw from Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

"They banged on the portholes until somebody came and opened the door."

Responding to such complaints, Italy announced an official inquiry yesterday into the fire that sank the liner.

"We want to understand what happened - the reasons, the causes, how people behaved," said Transport Minister Publio Fiori.

"I also want to get a clear idea of how the owners behaved in as-

sisting the evacuees. I've been told that some things didn't work as they had promised they would," he added.

Some 170 South Africans, 66 Britons, eight Americans, seven Germans and a handful of other nationalities arrived in Mombasa yesterday, ending their six-day ordeal off the coast of Africa.

Cruise entertainment organizers led bedraggled passengers on the tanker Chevron Perth in renditions of "Show Me The Way To Go Home" and "You Are My Sunshine," despite a tropical downpour.

Passengers complained Captain Giuseppe Orsi never announced what was happening to the blue-hulled, \$30-million liner.

They said the fire seemed to have been brought under control before dawn but then spread quickly. Crew members ended up trying to douse the fire with sea water scooped up in buckets on the end of ropes.

Crew members too scared to reveal their names said late on Sunday that passenger cabins were looted as the tourists waited on deck. The ship's safe contained valuables and passports - but only Italian crew members came away with travel documents.

Passengers praised the heroism of some crew members but said they were horrified to see Italian crewmen rushing for lifeboats before anybody else. "They were the first ones to leave - in spotless uniforms," said one angry Dutchman.

Beatles' 'Live at the BBC' album goes to No. 1 in four days

LONDON (Reuters) - The first Beatles album to be released in almost 25 years soared to No. 1 in the British charts yesterday only four days after it went on sale.

Live at the BBC, 56 songs recorded by the Fab Four for radio shows between 1962 and 1965, has been digitally remastered by long-time Beatles producer George Martin.

"We were not sure at all what

sales would be like and we are naturally very pleased that the album has proved to be popular," said a spokeswoman at record company EMI.

British media reported the album had sold 200,000 copies in four days but EMI could not confirm this.

The Chart Information Network said figures for the week

TREASURY Secretary Lloyd Bentsen plans to resign his cabinet post early next year, administration officials said yesterday, citing the Clinton administration one of its most respected senior policy-makers.

The officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said Bentsen, 73, wanted to return to Texas to go into business.

A precise date for the resignation has not been decided, the officials said. They said that Bentsen wished to discuss the question of timing with President Clinton.

In Budapest, where Clinton was attending an economic security conference, White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers would only say: "Secretary Bentsen will make any decisions... and any announcements about his future himself."

TOM RAUM
WASHINGTON

Bentsen's decision to resign was first reported in yesterday's editions of the Wall Street Journal, although it has been speculated upon for months.

Bentsen has been telling associates for more than a year that he planned to leave before the end of Clinton's first term.

But his value to the administration seemed enhanced with recent Republican landslide in Congress, because of his past cordial relations with some of the Republicans who will take over in January.

However, the officials said yesterday, Bentsen felt this was a good time to leave with last week's congressional passage of a new

world trade accord, a project on which Bentsen had devoted considerable energy in recent days.

He is also able to claim credit for successes with interstate banking legislation and with last year's free-trade pact with Mexico and deficit reduction legislation.

First elected to the House in 1948 and to the Senate in 1970, Bentsen was Clinton's first Cabinet choice as a reassuring senior economic policy-maker. Bentsen ran unsuccessfully for the presidency in 1976 and was the Democratic vice president nominee in 1988.

The Wall Street Journal said speculation on a successor centers on Robert Rubin, 57, the head of Clinton's National Economic Council and the former co-chief of Goldman, Sachs and Co. financial firm. (AP)

Gingrich chosen as House speaker

WASHINGTON (AP) - Republicans yesterday chose Rep. Newt Gingrich to be House speaker as the party prepared to take control of the chamber for the first time in four decades.

Gingrich will only take office after election by the full House of Representatives on January 4. But his selection yesterday by the Republicans, who will have a majority, was by voice vote and without dissent. So the election January 4 will be only a formality.

The 51-year-old Georgian pledged "cooperation, not compromise" after the Republican victory November 8 that gave the party control of the House for the first time since 1954.

The selection of Gingrich was like an American football rally with the throng of Republicans yelling "Newt, Newt, Newt."

Rep. Henry Bonilla said in a

nominating speech that the choice of Gingrich will "go down in history as a turning point for America. Newt Gingrich is a visionary, a believer in basic values."

Bonilla said Republicans, as the new congressional majority, will not only be fighting liberal politicians but "we will also be doing battle with the liberal media."

Rep. Richard Armitage of Texas, a conservative, was elected by unanimous voice vote to the No. 2 position, House majority leader.

There was a three-way contest for party whip among Reps. Bob Walker of Pennsylvania, Bill McCollum of Florida and Tom DeLay of Texas.

The speeches were often interrupted by thunderous applause from more than 200 Republican lawmakers meeting in the ornate room often used for party conferences.

Sheikh Abdel-Rahman has tuberculosis

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, the Egyptian cleric accused of plotting to bomb the United Nations and other New York landmarks, has been told he has tuberculosis and is in isolation at a federal jail.

"The prison doctor told me I have tuberculosis," the cleric said in an telephone interview with Reuters late on Sunday. The diagnosis was confirmed by his lawyer yesterday morning.

"They isolated me. No visitors. No lawyers. No para-legals. No telephones," the 56-year-old cleric, who is blind and suffers from diabetes, asthma and a heart condition, said in halting English.

Lynn Stewart, one of Abdel-Rahman's lawyers, said yesterday that the law clerk to US District Judge Michael Mukasey confirmed the diagnosis.

"I was told he has tuberculosis but that apparently it is not communicable," Stewart said. The lawyer said she plans to seek bail

for the cleric this week "so he can get some decent care and be allowed to meet with his legal team."

Abdel-Rahman, was accused more than a year ago with 11 others of plotting to bomb the United Nations and other major buildings, bridges and tunnels in New York City and with plotting to kill Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

He has been described by prosecutors as the spiritual leader of a group seeking the overthrow of the Egyptian government.

"Anyone coming close to me must wear a mask," Abdel-Rahman said. "It is very scary."

Last month, the cleric was rushed to the Westchester County Medical Center at Valhalla, New York, about 48 kilometers north of New York City, suffering from pneumonia. He spent about a week in hospital before he was returned to his two-room federal cell.

Myers said that if any employees tested positive for drugs they would not be working at the White House any longer.

She said that everyone who works at the White House was asked in writing as part of the FBI clearance process if they had used illegal drugs within the previous five years.

Gingrich has said he would tone down his language when he takes the House leadership in the Republican-led Congress that convenes in January, but he was at his most provocative in the Sunday television appearance.

Searching for gold at Buchenwald

STEPHANIE WAETJEN
BERLIN

THE Gold Rush has come late to the east German state of Thuringia - and the diggers are not looking for nuggets, but Nazi treasure.

Prospecting has become so feverish that local authorities are joining the search themselves - if only to prove there is no hidden hoard and win peace from treasure-seekers and robbers.

Even former concentration camps, now converted into grim memorials and museums, are not exempt.

Volker Knigge, director of the memorial complex at the former Buchenwald camp, said in November he was starting his own treasure hunt with remote cameras in chambers and passageways under the site quarry.

"We can see no other way of putting an end to this gold fever," he told Reuters.

Treasure-seekers have flocked to Buchenwald, outside the historic town of Weimar, to seek secret SS files and a rumored 100 suitcases each holding 50 kilos of gold and silver taken from prisoners.

The rumors are based on the findings of retired construction official and amateur historian Hans Stadelmann, who bases his theory on a sketch made by a prisoner and the notes of a US Army officer.

Unfortunately for irritated local authorities and museum directors, hilly Thuringia is coal and uranium mining country and has about 700 pits as potential hideaways for

secret treasure, many of them unexplored for decades.

In Jonastal, site of a bunker that Hitler intended as a last refuge from invading Allied forces, fruitless official excavations failed to deter the fortune seekers. Now all known entrances are blocked off.

"This used to look like the Klondike at the time of the Gold Rush," said Norman Hoehler, mayor of nearby Graefenhofen.

The prospectors come at night to hunt illegally for anything from documents about secret Nazi weapons systems to heavy water for the manufacture of a hydrogen bomb or gold given by Japan in payment for German submarines during World War Two.

"It's all just rumors," Hoehler said.

He said the state-owned firm set up by Soviet occupiers after the war to mine uranium in Thuringia had explored all the mine shafts and found no treasure.

Yet the disused mines and bunkers seem to yield the kind of war memorabilia that circulates in Germany's fringe neo-Nazi scene.

"Gas masks, SS insignia or a broken bayonet can fetch good money in the right-wing scene," Hoehler said. "And these aren't just village skinheads rummaging around. Judging by their equip-

ment, these treasure hunters are professionals."

Prosecutors are still hunting thieves who stole the remains of a wartime V-2 rocket from the Mittelbau-Dora former labor camp, a 20 km-long tunnel complex where 60,000 prisoners worked in inhuman conditions to build the arms.

State prosecutor Hans-Joachim Petri said the rocket parts had been offered at "astronomical prices" to a museum of flight in Twente in the Netherlands and news reports have spoken of their being offered to London auctioneers Sotheby's.

The biggest prize would be the fabulous "Amber Room" given to Russian Tsar Peter the Great by Prussia's King Frederick-William I in 1716 and valued at more than \$150 million.

Nazi invaders stripped the panels and furnishings from a palace outside St Petersburg in 1941 and installed them in the East Prussian Baltic town of Koenigsberg - now Kaliningrad in Russia.

Four years later they vanished as the Germans beat a chaotic retreat before invading Soviet forces in 1945.

A 40-year search by East Germany's Stasi secret police and a costly official excavation in 1991 in the ruins of Nazi bunkers in Weimar failed to unearth the hoard, but the undaunted prospectors seem determined to keep looking. (Reuters)

THE JERUSALEM POST TOY FUND

LITTLE HEARTS BREAK EASY

Imagine a child in a poor family, or in a home for orphans or the disabled. There's always a reason, it seems, for other kids to get presents: holidays, birthdays, achievements, or just for being good.

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Chechyan government, opposition fear Russian intervention

"The result [of inaction] will be a discredited United Nations, a ruined NATO...there will be a different, worse world."



Grachev said Russian warplanes had destroyed six Tu-134 planes and 10 training jets. He warned Dudayev against trying to replace the aircraft. "Any aircraft which tries to fly to Grozny without authorization will be destroyed," Interfax quoted Grachev as saying.

ments from Kinshasa followed the killing of 26 refugees and one Zairean soldier and wounding of 77 refugees in clashes in Katala camp between troops and refugees.

In his remarks, Clinton also urged Bosnian Serbs to renew negotiations to end the Bosnian war and warned world leaders to draw

As the two-day meeting opened, diplomats preparing the final document said Russia was holding up agreement on several key sections, its opposition apparently based on fears of losing influence in Europe. (Reuter)

Makoto Sakai of the Nishio police station said police are ques-

John Bruton, head of the main Fine Gael opposition party, said he wanted parliament to postpone the election of a new prime minister when it reconvenes today until Fianná Fáil had cleared

Labor effectively scuttled the previous government when it pulled out in protest at the promotion by Albert Reynolds of the then attorney-general Harry Whelehan to High Court president.

It would also end the right of hereditary peers, mostly members of Britain's top fam-

"There's probably a majority for this monarch to be the last one we're going to have, and it's not because of the growth of republicanism... it's because of the shenanigans that's taken place at Buckingham Palace," Skinner told parliament to Conservative jeers.

Fellow cabinet minister David Hunt said Straw's comments had cast doubt on La-

E E Y E ON THE M E D I A

DAVID BAR-ILLAN

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Original sin

MILITARY intelligence head Maj.-Gen. Uri Saguy is not known for viewing developments in the Arab world pessimistically. On the contrary: He has been criticized for underplaying dangers, seeing positive changes where there are none, and supporting the government's peace moves to the point of politicizing his position. That on Sunday he described the situation in Gaza as a Lebanonization process is therefore significant. In the language of the Middle East, this means that in the six months of Palestinian rule, Gaza has become a hopeless morass.

Nor is this merely Saguy's assessment. On Saturday, a *New York Times* story from Gaza by correspondent Youssef Ibrahim painted a similar picture. The polarization of the Arab population has never been greater, he writes. Yasser Arafat, touted by government leaders and the world community as the only Palestinian leader acknowledged by all his people, is now seen as a mortal enemy by a large minority - if not a majority - of Palestinians.

The new graffiti in Gaza, painted on walls whitewashed at the cost of over \$3 million only two months ago, rarely mentions Israel. "The villain is Mr. Arafat," writes Ibrahim, "and his armed Fatah militia and police force, who are denounced over and over again as 'killers of Palestinians,' 'bats of darkness,' 'Israel's loyal servants,' and 'the dogs of Arafat.'"

More important, Arafat is adding to his numerous violations of the Oslo agreement the rearming of the Fatah Hawks. He is creating another militia, unbound by the strictures which the Palestinian Police, financed by foreign contributors, still have to observe. It is only through this militia, which owes him personal allegiance, that he hopes to prevent Hamas from dislodging him from power.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin tried yesterday to find differences between Gaza and the Lebanon of the 1970s and 1980s by pointing out that Lebanon had no central authority with an armed force to maintain law and order. But the fact is that Arafat's force is neither able nor willing to subdue his armed opposition. Nor is Arafat likely to succeed in applying the "divide and rule" tactics which he used so skillfully in Lebanon. As Hamas leader Mahmoud Zahar told the *Times*, each family in Gaza boasts members of different factions. To assume that they would fight each other for Arafat's sake is to expect the impossible.

Nor is Arafat's failure limited to the military sphere. As Saguy told the cabinet on Sunday, the PA has been a great disappointment in the administrative and economic areas as well. Traditional

PLO corruption, and the imposition of Arafat's Tunisian court on local Israeli-trained bureaucrats, have made a shambles of the existing structure. And Arafat, instead of trying to introduce a semblance of order to the running of the PA, has been spending time and energy on ludicrous claims that Israel had "ruined the infrastructure."

It is under the shadow of this PA record that the Cairo talks are being resumed today. The prospect that the next scheduled step - an IDF pullback from the "populated areas" followed by Palestinian elections - will be a security nightmare is giving the government pause. As outgoing chief negotiator and Coordinator of Activities in the Territories Maj.-Gen. Danny Rothschild put it, "Judea and Samaria are more politically complex than Gaza, and given Arafat's track record, he will find it difficult to establish authority there." What this means is that once the army forfeits control of the Arab centers, the armed Palestinian militias will take over, and every Arab town and village in Judea and Samaria will become a terrorist base.

The general perception, bolstered by government pronouncements, is that this development will endanger the 130,000 Jewish residents of Judea and Samaria, whose security remains the army's responsibility. It is for them that bypass roads will have to be built, and it is the protection of the isolated settlements that the army will find an impossible task. Rabin reinforced this impression yesterday, when he asserted that "some settlements are security disasters." This may signal an intention to "consolidate" the more remote communities by removing them to areas more densely populated by Jews.

But the security problem associated with the "settlements" is a red herring. The danger of relinquishing military control over the Arab population centers has as much to do with the safety of Israelis inside the Green Line as beyond it. As recent terrorist attacks should have made clear, the vulnerability to terror is just as great in Afula and Tel Aviv as it is on the most isolated road in Judea. It is even possible that the settlers' constant vigilance makes them less likely victims.

The mistake is not the settlements - as some in the government now say in trying to explain the failure of the Oslo agreement - but the insane belief that Arafat can be transformed into a man of peace. That this belief is shared by the Nobel Prize committee makes it no less tragic and costly. This is the original sin from which all the government's current troubles flow. And the sooner the government recognizes and admits this blunder, the better it will fare with the nation and history.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE TEL AVIV PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Sir, - I had my first opportunity to see the new Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center (TAPAC) at work when I attended the Israel Ballet's performance there on November 22.

I will not comment on the choice of architectural schemes (they are really immaterial to the main function of the theater) other than to say that the look in the lobby seemed a bit heavy and oppressive to support the kind of mood that should accompany an evening at the opera, ballet, etc. The overall look inside the auditorium, though, was considerably lighter in nature and quite pleasant.

I will comment, however, on those things which directly affect the patron: comfort, service and technical support of the performance. The individual seats were spacious and comfortable, but the centerline between rows in the orchestra section is too narrow for 40+ across continental seating. The service provided by the ushers and other staff was pleasant and supportive. A "quick snack" service was provided in addition to the restaurant, but there was too little seating or even standing room to support it, especially on the lower level. The line at the rest room during the intermissions (especially on the women's side) suggests that there are far too few facilities for a theater of this size.

The sight-line problems have already been well documented. I also found the architectural design of the lighting system to be lacking. The ceiling beams are so placed that all light to the downstage area is from a high angle. Because the side lighting alcoves provide only 30-45 degrees at most on each side, this leaves a 90-degree arc in which the entire area from the apron to down-center stage is underlit, creating unacceptable shadows on the performers' faces. Some lower-angle lighting across the front is needed. This could be provided by a balcony rail across the entire facade just below the balcony seating. I am sure that this could be architecturally concealed in some esthetically pleasing fashion.

A mixed bag for what has been touted as a world-class performing arts center. Given the price tag, I had hoped for more.

SHMUEL BEN-ARTZI

Netanya.

UNFAIR TO RATTLESNAKES

Sir, - I refer to the op-ed column by Uri Dan and Dennis Eisenberg, of November 17 ("A clutch of concepts") and wish to take issue with something they reported. Saddam Hussein was compared to a rattlesnake when describing his untrustworthiness. For their information, a rattlesnake, an honorable, albeit lowly, member of the animal kingdom, is not sneaky. When one strikes, it is either to acquire food or when the rattlesnake considers itself in danger. In the latter case, the reptile usually gives warning by its shaking its tail thus resulting in a rattle which is normally enough to warn off anyone with half a brain and even the most basic will to survive.

In all other respects, I found the column hits the bulls-eye in portraying both Assad and the stupidity of our own leaders in how they relate to him. It cannot be emphasized too strongly that relying on his word poses a mortal danger to our very existence and I hope that Messrs. Dan and Eisenberg continue to put the reptile usually gives warning by its shaking its tail thus resulting in a rattle which is normally enough to warn off anyone with half a brain and even the most basic will to survive.

Elfat.

JACK KERN

SLANTED COMMENTS

Sir, - How could Yosef Goell (in his article of November 11) presume to write of "peoples continuing to slaughter each other" (in the context of this being a worse option than transfer)? Mr. Goell knows very well that, whilst there are very frequent attacks by Arab terrorists upon Israelis, ending in death or injury, there are hardly any instances of Israelis killing or attacking innocent Arabs.

Whilst such slanted reporting, which must inevitably blacken and distort Israel's image, is the norm for such as the BBC and many others who are consistently hostile towards Israel, one expects better of Goell.

RHONA YEMINI

Givatayim.

FERDINAND

Sir, - As long as our old Ferdinand is not fired, I am the same optimist as Mr. Unna (Letters, November 23) and hope that my newspaper will find its old right course.

P. MAYER

Herziya.

DEFUNCT SYNAGOGUES

Sir, - Having been born an American Jew of non-practicing American Jewish parents, I have always felt very removed from specifically Jewish issues and the devastation of the Holocaust. As an artist, I was invited this past summer to give a talk and paint a mural in Prague and had the opportunity to visit Terezin and travel through parts of the Czech Republic, Germany and Austria. It was an eye-opener to me. Through these profound experiences I have come to understand the importance of knowing, remembering and preserving.

If you have any photographs and stories about defunct synagogues, where they are, why they are defunct and what they are now, please send them to me for possible inclusion in a book-in-progress, *Documenting Defunct Synagogues*, at P.O. Box 25328, Falls Station, Arlington, VA, 22202, USA.

It is important to document these buildings while people still remember. Let us not let the memories disappear.

JOYCE ELLEN WEINSTEIN
Arlington, Virginia.

RESTITUTION FROM LITHUANIA

Sir, - Your reader Louis Garb tells us (Letters, October 10) that he wrote to the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv requesting some information. The embassy did not reply.

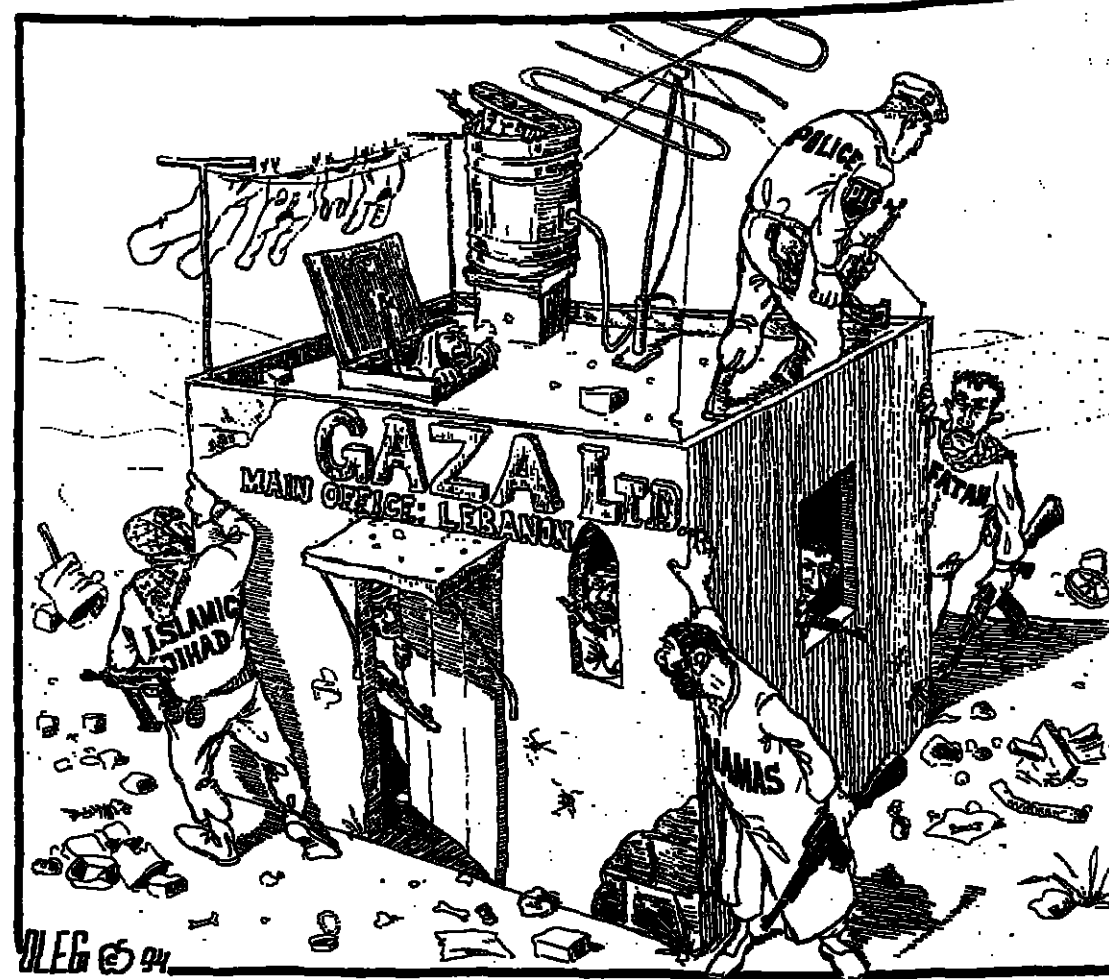
I had a similar problem with the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington. I sent them a letter which I received from the Ministry of Justice in Vilnius. It was written in Lithuanian. I asked them to translate it. No reply.

The US Embassy in Vilnius suggested I write to the Ministry of Justice and to the Lithuanian archives. I wanted to know how to proceed with restitution of property our grandfather had in Kusemai, Lithuania.

The director of archives tells me (this will interest your readers who left Lithuania, or their children) that only citizens of the Republic of Lithuania can proceed with a request for restitution. Also, the request has to be handed personally to the proper authorities. If documentation is not available, one must apply to the state archives.

DAVID LASS

Deerfield Beach, Florida.



Answer to Iran's threat

JAMES T. HACKETT

TWO events occurred in early November that could profoundly affect the defense of Israel and US military forces in the field.

Most notable was the Republican sweep of the US elections, which has given a clear mandate to the Republican "Contract with America." Item six in the contract calls for a strong national defense, including "a missile defense system against rogue dictatorships."

The other event that occurred was the report of launches by Iran of at least three and possibly five Scud missiles against the mujahideen operating in northern Iraq against the fundamentalist Iranian government.

These reports come less than six months after the use of Scuds by South Yemen in the Yemen civil war and provide further evidence that ballistic missiles have become the weapon of choice for anti-democratic regimes to use against the population centers of their enemies.

This new use of ballistic missiles by Iran is troubling in view of Iran's major missile acquisition program and its willingness to use such weapons against civilians.

Iran first began launching Scuds against Iraq in March 1985, during the eight-year Iran-Iraq war. It bought Scud-Bs from Libya, Syria and North Korea, and a missile production capability from China.

During the "War of the Cities" between Iran and Iraq in March and April 1988, Iran launched some 325 missiles at about a dozen Iraqi cities. Many were short-range rockets produced in Iran from a Chinese design, but at least 120 Scuds were also fired against Iraqi cities, including 61 that struck Baghdad.

More recently, Iran has bought longer-range Scud-Cs from North Korea and helped finance North Korea's 1,000-km. Nodong 1 missile. Iran may also be financing North Korean development of the 1,500-km. Nodong 2.

A recent report by the US Congressional Research Service found that Iran has ordered 150 Nodongs as part of an agreement that includes co-production in Iran. The Nodong 2 will have enough range to reach Israel from Iran. This

emerging missile threat provides a strong case for the early deployment of effective defenses against such weapons. The new Republican majority in Congress will be sympathetic to this need.

In late October, Prime Minister Rabin met in Tel Aviv with Lieutenant General Malcolm O'Neill, commander of the US Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, to discuss how best to synergize US

A joint US-Israel effort could develop a boost-phase missile defense to attack enemy missiles in the first 60 seconds after launch

and Israel missile defense programs.

Most important are Israel's Arrow missile interceptor, which has been under development since the mid-1980s, and the US Army's Theater High Altitude Area Defense program. In follow-on meetings at the Pentagon in mid-November, Defense Ministry director-general David Ivi won assurances of continued long-term US funding for the Arrow, and that commitment was confirmed by President Clinton in a November 21 meeting with Rabin at the White House.

The current phase of the Arrow project extends to late 1996, to be followed by the deployment phase, which will involve the integration of the missile interceptor with the radars, communications, and other systems essential for its effective operation. A successful intercept test last June confirmed that the problems encountered early in the Arrow program have been overcome.

In the October meetings with General O'Neill, Rabin said that in addition to the Arrow, a boost-phase missile defense is a high priority for Israel's security.

A boost-phase defense would attack an enemy missile in the first

60 seconds after launch, when it is most vulnerable, and ensure that the warhead and debris fall on enemy territory rather than the area being defended.

Such a defense, however, requires the ability to launch a high-speed rocket against an enemy missile from a circling aircraft or unmanned aerial vehicle. Early this year, the US Defense Department considered various approaches to this problem, but became bogged down in bureaucratic feuding over which program to pursue. The US Air Force, dominated by pilots biased against unmanned aircraft, favors a large and heavy boost-phase intercept rocket to be fired from an F-15 fighter.

F-15s are also an important part of the Israel Air Force, but they have other missions, such as striking enemy forces and positions, that may have a higher priority than circling in wait for enemy missile launches.

On the other hand, Israel, which has been flying unmanned drones over Middle East trouble spots for decades, is a world leader in unmanned aerial vehicle technology. And Israel's Rafael company has designed a high-speed, lightweight, air-to-air rocket known as MOAB-which could be carried to within 80 km. of enemy missile launches by either an F-15 or a high-flying unmanned aerial vehicle.

With the new danger of Iranian missiles in mind, now may be the time for the US and Israel to cooperate in the joint development of a boost-phase missile intercept capability based on Israel's unmanned aerial vehicle and MOAB rocket technologies. The MOAB rocket, enhanced with advanced US technologies, could be carried on fighters and/or unmanned aircraft, whichever each country prefers.

A cooperative US-Israel approach to the development of a practical solution to the boost-phase intercept challenge would avoid at least some of the Pentagon infighting, while taking full advantage of the expertise in aerospace technology that exists in both countries.

The writer is a defense consultant based in San Diego, California.

Oslo II: the same, but worse

AMIEL UNGAR

THE end result of trouble-shooting Oslo I is all too predictable. Israel will be blamed for the trouble, and the Arabs will be free to go on with the shooting.

While Oslo II will, in many respects, be more of the pernicious same, in other respects, it will be much worse. Oslo I was marked as a test phase, one in which Israel retained its ability to monitor compliance with the accords and take appropriate action in the event of violations.

Advocates of Oslo II, people like Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, no longer talk of test phases; they insist on creating something that will prove irreversible even if the opposition (as now seems likely) returns to power.

There was a heady atmosphere surrounding Oslo I, but the conduct of the Palestinian side has made short shrift of any illusions.

Arafat has not provided the firm hand on the tiller, and the situation is rapidly verging on Lebanonization.

Terrorism, Rabin promised, was to be extirpated without legal niceties. We have, instead, seen the charade of Arafat rounding up the usual suspects following an act of terror, then releasing them once the heat was off.

Advocates of Oslo II know all this. By ramming through an accord at any cost, they will have traversed the line separating negligence from criminal negligence. The smart money would never

back a sequel to Oslo I. They would allow it to rest in peace after which it could, perhaps, like the *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, become the diplomatic equivalent of a cult film.

THE SAME people who brought us Oslo I now want to bring us Oslo II. If Hollywood is anything to go by, sequels - from *Rocky to Gremlins* - generally follow resounding box office successes for the original movie.

But Oslo I has proved the very opposite of a success, as even Shimon Peres, who headed a team charged with explaining the manifold virtues of Oslo I to the public, now concedes (*The Jerusalem Post*, December 2).

Gazit and Co. ask us to entrust the production of Oslo II to the same crew which masterminded the original flop. And, in addition, we are to let them work away in secret, free from scrutiny or criticism, until they have presented us with another unworkable fait accompli.

Not to worry, they assure us. Oslo I was merely a rough prototype. Both sides should sit back and iron out the kinks in the mechanism - vola! - we will soon be celebrating a new, improved Oslo II.

But unfortunately, the trouble-shooting is going to be carried out by people with the mindset responsible for the original problems.

Take that unctuous evenhandedness that, in some quarters, passes for intellectual rigor. Gazit, for example, attributes the problems to "extremists on both sides."

With the notable exception of Baruch Goldstein, the identity of the Israeli extremists who are sabotaging the accord through violence remains unknown. But the names of wanted Arab murderers are known. Many are alive and well and enjoying the freedom of Gaza and Jericho.

Even the preposterous comparison between opponents of Oslo in Israel and Arafat's adversaries comes up short. Rabin has ridden roughshod over the opinion of those who disagree with his policies; Arafat has now institutionalized his dialogue with Hamas.

How many Arabs have been murdered by Israeli extremists, and how many stolen Arab cars have been incorporated into Israel's police force?

Oslo aficionados aren't fazed. To those who confront them with the realities, they magisterially reply that neither side should take the easy road of assigning blame exclusively to the other side, but should concentrate on self-criticism.

The writer teaches political science at Bar-Ilan University.

Hunger pangs

MIKE LITWIN

REMEMBER school lunch? Americans are remembering. Because the question now is whether all kids in the US are entitled to eat lunch of some description while at school.

Newt Gingrich apparently doesn't believe they are.

With his new mandate as - I hope I have this right - Speaker for Life, he is ready to cut back on this and other such extreme examples of government waste.

In his plan to overhaul the social-welfare system, Gingrich doesn't stop at your basic, garden-variety welfare. Americans know about this kind of welfare, the kind Ronald Reagan loved to evoke. In Reagan's quaint vision, it was a great society filled with Cadillac-driving welfare queens.

Nobody talks that way anymore, mainly because nobody under the age of 60 would be caught dead in a Caddy.

Today, welfare is described as being bad for poor people. Giving poor people money, everyone now seems to agree, keeps them poor. The system must be reformed.

That's what many people voted for, anyway. They voted for less government (meaning, lower taxes), and they voted for all able-bodied citizens to work.

But did they vote to limit food stamps for the poor, many of whom are working poor and many of whom are children? Did they really vote to jeopardize free school lunches? Free breakfasts?

Free school lunches may soon become history in the US

Here's the Gingrich plan: It says that nobody who happens to be poor is entitled to, well, anything. It says that those eligible to receive government assistance may not necessarily receive any.

Under the Gingrich scheme, states would be given blocks of money for food plans to use however they wish. If the money runs out, either the states will make up the difference, or people can just go hungry.

SOUND GOOD? It does sound like something, say, Jesse Helms could get behind.

Here are some numbers to munch on along with your leftover turkey.

According to a Maryland Food Committee survey of 100 emergency food providers in Baltimore and the surrounding counties, 81,267 people showed up for help during the month of October.

Of those 100 providers, 50 percent had to either cut back on service from a year ago, or turn hungry people away.

Of those people who needed food assistance, 25 percent had jobs. And 70 percent were already receiving government help.

These are people who had already fallen through the safety net.

That's before the Newtster got out his beloved chain saw.

The school-lunch program has a noble, if odd, history. The War Department wanted it. Apparently many potential World War II draftees were turned away because they were malnourished. In 1946, free lunches for future draftees seemed like a good solution.

The program has expanded, of course. There are many government requirements, of course - for instance, the one assuring that children get a vegetable and/or ketchup for lunch.

Every eligible child can get a free lunch. At least for now.

Gingrich wants to put the program into the hands of the states, which would set their own regulations. If there isn't enough money - say, when the next recession hits - somebody might have to get hurt. Somebody like a small, hungry child.

It could get worse. In the name of welfare reform, many conservatives have suggested orphanages for children whose parents can't provide for them.

Is that what people want? Linda Eisenberg, director of the Maryland Food Committee, doesn't think so.

"I hear from people, 'Didn't the voters say this?' and 'Didn't the voters say that?'" she says. "But I don't think the voters said to throw the baby out with the bath water."

"I know people are tired of government programs and of government waste. But nutrition programs are among the most efficient we have. I don't think people really want to throw away this baby." It's hard to imagine that they do.

(Baltimore Sun)

BACKSTAGE at the newly opened Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center (TAPAC), the Frankfurt Ballet dancers were in a ebullient mood.

They had just finished performing the first part of William Forsythe's *The Loss of Small Detail*, and were walking around congratulating each other on their command of this extremely difficult 23 minutes of nonstop, highly technical movement.

The company is opening the dance season at TAPAC. During the intermission of the second performance last week, director/choreographer Forsythe found a few minutes of his busy schedule to talk about his artistry.

During the performance itself, the 45-year-old American-born choreographer sat in the theater, concentrating on the stage and the huge soundboard.

Forsythe watched his dancers closely to enable him to talk individually with each one about his or her work.

Forsythe's recipe: Ballet from scratch

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT



William Forsythe's ballets have been described as "an attack on the senses."

The piece will be performed by a different group of dancers every night, and Forsythe explains that

he works with each cast individually. "That's the deal. They joined the company to work with me and I picked them specifically, so I must work with each and every one."

Forsythe spends most of the year with his company. Although he does not necessarily subscribe to the sole-choreographer-company theory, like Martha Graham, for example, he says that "logistically it works that way."

"We had some other choreographers work with us, like Ohad Naharin, artistic director of the BatSheva Dance Company, but basically it's me and the dancers."

Naharin, an admirer of Forsythe, says that "his works are a

huge attack on all the senses."

Forsythe dismisses those who say that his works are not ballets, per se. "It's as if I were to say a building by a famous architect is not really architecture."

Like his dance works, Forsythe's manner of speech is energetic, yet with a touch of elegance and style; explosive yet graceful.

He demands a lot from his hand-picked group of about 40 dancers.

"You need to have an extremely accomplished body coordination. My angles are very complicated, so this is really a must."

Forsythe is definitely not interested in putting his imprint on some of the classics of the classical-ballet masterpieces.

"I want to do everything from scratch, like the classics were when they were new."

That said, his ballets are very much anchored in the classical-ballet tradition and technique. His dancers are versed in both classical ballet and modern dance, with the women quite astounding *en pointe*, for example.

"I've learned that style. I know that, so that's where it all starts for me," he says.

FORSYTHE WAS born in New York and grew up on Long Island. As a child he studied the bassoon, the flute and the violin. His Austrian grandfather was a violinist child prodigy who at 12 had played on the stage of La Scala.

Forsythe studied classical ballet

and danced for two years with the Joffrey Ballet. In 1973 he left the US and moved to Europe, joining the Stuttgart Ballet.

Three years later he choreographed his first dance, *Urlicht*, and became the resident choreographer of the company. In 1980 he left Stuttgart and became an independent choreographer before joining the Frankfurt Ballet a decade ago.

Forsythe feels at home in Europe in general and in Germany in particular, and does not miss his native country.

"The US is not a good place to work. The working conditions there are not as good as in Europe and the people who control the arts are not willing to risk their money at all."

"And those who do give money in the US also want to have artistic

control over the company, and I feel that's offensive. It's like getting money with a price tag."

Forsythe stopped performing 10 years ago. He says he "absolutely does not miss dancing." In rehearsal, however, "I show everything to my dancers myself."

On rare occasions he will join his dancers on stage in a particular show and "see what it's like."

"It's really both internally hard and externally exhausting. And it revived a certain understanding of the dilemma of being a dancer."

This week the Frankfurt Ballet continues its local tour with another Forsythe work, the two-year-old *A L I E N A C T I O N*. Forsythe does not remember where the title came from.

When asked to describe the work, he says it "defies description." Then he collects his thoughts and calls it "a technical rap gospel show."

A L I E N A C T I O N is being performed at TAPAC Tuesday through Thursday at 8:30 p.m. and Friday at 1 p.m.

Yesterday's gone for early Beatles

NEW RELEASES

TIRZAH AGASSI

THE release of *The Beatles Live at the BBC* (NMC) is a media event, hyped around the world.

But somehow I found myself approaching this double album of recordings from their 1962-65 radio sessions with dread.

For what, other than the hope of making a Christmas buck, could be the point here? Are the four lads supposed to magically transport us back to the merry days when London swung?

But even I had no inkling of what a repetitive bore this would turn out to be.

Listening to these mono recordings of shows slapped together, as the *Greatest Show on Earth* picked up steam, is like listening to damning evidence culled by a wiretap at a party that seemed really great at the time. In the sober light of the morning after, memories of wit and brilliant repartee evaporate, and all one can say in view of the mundane evidence is, "Well, you had to be there."

As the epic dragged on, its lack of variation or studio enhancement became very wearing. I mean, how many covers of B-sides by '50s groups like the Coasters can you take? And are you really all ears for yet another standard version of Chuck Berry's "Johnny

B. Goode" or "Lucille"? There are nine Berry covers in all — but wouldn't you rather hear Chuck do them?

I'm sure there are a few OK renditions that can be salvaged from this 69-track trivia orgy. After all, 10 million listeners tuned in to what was Britain's most exciting radio event of the moment. But unless these tapes are going to trigger the release of some still-bubbly ecstasy that's been locked in your memory bank, forget it.

The Beatles were great, and even some of their earliest songs stand the test of time. It's too bad those responsible couldn't resist the market potential of putting one over on the nostalgic masses. If there had been just one rediscovered masterpiece! But there isn't.

PEARL JAM is America's top rock act. Generation X warriors who have resisted the temptation to blow off their heads in favor of Ticketmaster, the king of ticket brokers, whom they accuse of monopolistic price gouging.

How can one not love these intense, Seattle-based heroes? They even make good music.

Vitalogy (NMC), their third album, is awash with moody veils of guitar sound. It doesn't just drive; it gets somewhere, breaking



This 69-track trivia orgy from the Beatles' 1962-65 BBC radio sessions doesn't include a single rediscovered masterpiece.

through anger and frustration to almost peaceful melodic respite.

Front man Eddie Vedder has an interesting, full-bodied voice. And there is something about the music's muffled preoccupation

with integrity that is reminiscent of what all the best rockers got to eventually.

But their systematic refusal to play ball with a music industry that "turns art into junk food" is a new

wrinkle. The album deserves to be listened to as a whole rather than just as a set of singles, like the radio-exposed "Spin the Black Circle." It's a bit heavy going, but it is going somewhere new.

Giora Feidman: A prayer leader for Jewish music

CLARINETIST Giora Feidman is no ordinary musician. He is a genuine and immensely devoted proponent of Jewishness as expressed in the so-called klezmer music of Eastern European Jewry.

Klezmer music, as a natural, living phenomenon, a folkloristic art of bitter sweetness and tragedy permeated by laughter and piety, has ceased to exist.

Recently, however, there has been a revival of klezmer music in the form of pop and rock. These interpretations vandalize the music and shamelessly exploit people's insatiable appetite for cheap and banal entertainment.

For Feidman, klezmer music means a thousand things more. For him it is a beautiful expression of his personality and a profound identification with an idiom which developed over hundreds of years and which became an integral part of Jewish existence.

Feidman's klezmer music lifts one up to a spiritual level, to pray-

er-like meditation and to an individuation which brings the believer closer to his creator.

Feidman played Ernst Bloch's famous *Schelomo* rhapsody for cello and orchestra, adapted for the clarinet; *Three Points of Light*, a suite by Ora Bat-Haim, a rather weak piece unworthy of Feidman's art; and Andre Hajdu's touching *Tenuat Melech*, which contained moments of introverted, almost inaudible whisper contrasted with the awe-inspiring blowing of the shofar, magnificently imitated by the clarinet.

For this listener the most exciting moment of the concert was an encore, played by Feidman without any instrumental accompaniment, in which he asked the audience to join him in spirit by producing a hummed drone (pedal tone). At this moment Feidman was a *ba'al tefila*, a prayer leader.

These moments were so inspiring and fascinating that a member of the audience started, extemporaneously, a cantorial solo.

CONCERT ROUNDUP

Mann Auditorium, Tel Aviv, November 28. **Benjamin Bar-Am**

A QUARTET movement by the Jewish-Czech composer Ervin Schulhoff, as an encore, made the listener regret that the Berlin Philharmonic Quartet had not included more modern works in its program. The verve and abandon of its playing was refreshing, after the noble restraint practiced in most of what came before.

The playing began to become genuinely animated, though, already in the final movement of Beethoven's Quartet op. 130, ending the work on a note of elation after the preceding detachment.

The emotional drama unfolding, contrary to expectations, in the slow movement of Brahms's Quartet op. 67, more than in the fast ones, was expressed with a fair degree of involvement. The fast movements sounded appropriately light and carefree, in the spirit of

the New *Liebeslieder* Waltzes composed at the same time.

Impeccable togetherness, even in occasional rubatos, and immaculate purity of intonation were the commendable qualities discernible right from the start of the Haydn Quartet op. 77/1 and were maintained throughout the evening. The overall impression was one of highly professional and pleasing, although not downright exciting, playing.

Jerusalem Theater, November 30
Ury Eppstein

TO CELEBRATE the 250th anniversary of a viola da gamba built in 1744 by instrument maker Andrea Castagnari in Paris and restored to its former glory this year, Myrna Herzog, its proud possessor, presented this rare specimen in a recital with harpsichordist David Shemer.

The instrument proved itself capable of singing with a fascinatingly sonorous yet discreet sound in a Chaconne by Forqueray, the slow

movements of a suite by Marais and sonatas by Lidl and Bach — arranged, though, from a trio sonata for organ. It danced flexibly and lightly in the fast movements of the Marais suite and the Bach sonata.

Characteristically, French charm was displayed in d'Hervelois's *Papillon*. Musical behavior in a less baroque and more classic style, attempted by Andreas Lidl in the late 18th century, finally led to the capitulation of the gamba before the more assertive cello.

Magic Stone, a recent piece by Brazilian composer Gerson Grunblatt, purposefully contrasted the sonorities of the harpsichord's plucked strings with the gamba's bowed ones.

Shemer's rendition of solo pieces by Couperin and Forqueray, both plucked musical fun at each other, was faithful to the composers' style. In the ensemble playing, the harpsichord tended to get the upper hand over the more soft-spoken viola da gamba.

James Levine to conduct IPO

KKNOWN worldwide as the artistic director of New York's Metropolitan Opera, James Levine will conduct the Israel Philharmonic in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony at Tel Aviv's Mann Auditorium on Saturday and Sunday, and at the Jerusalem International Convention Center on December 12.

Since he made his Met debut with *Tosca* in 1971, Levine has conducted nearly 1,500 performances of more than 60 operas, many of them, such as Verdi's *Stiffelio*, new to the Metropolitan Opera stage.

He initiated both the Met's live TV performances on public television and the Young Artists' Development Program.

Levine is much in demand as a conductor. He is an annual guest at Salzburg and Bayreuth, and until this year was music director of the Ravinia Festival in suburban Chicago.

Soloists at the IPO performance will be soprano Deborah Voigt, mezzo Jane Bunnett, tenor Philip Creech and bass Eike Willem Schulte, together with the Kibbutz Artzi, Ihud and Radio Bucharest choirs. *Helen Kaye*

Return to human values

THEATER REVIEW

NAOMI DOUDAI

FINAL THERAPY

A one-act play by A.B. Yehoshua. Direction, Nola Chaiton. Design, Moshe Josifov. A Tzavta production. Hebrew title, *Tipulum Aharonim*. At Tzavta, Tel Aviv.

Mrs. Herman — Germaine Unikovsky
Mr. Herman — Gedalia Besser
Shmuel — Shmuel Calderon
Anne — Yael Amitai

WHY Tzavta has selected this revised version of a 1973 one-act to open its season is anyone's guess.

To demonstrate the near death of local domestic drama? Is it a message to contemporary Hebrew playwrights to get back to human basics? Today, they rarely show any inclination to chronicle personal predicament untended by political implications.

Whatever the case, the resurrected *Final Therapy* constitutes a welcome reversion to warm human values. Interest in the classic triangle of therapist, patient and neglected spouse has not changed with the years.

Nor has the dilemma of dawning retirement for a couple that, as here, have compensated for childlessness with a devotion to, respectively, patients and books. For Mr. and Mrs. Herman the dream of a cozy future away from

both is unexpectedly shattered by the return visit of a trio of weirdos. The past, it transpires, is always with them. The engaging drama develops from there.

The first is Shatz, who has come back with a compulsive craving to recapture his pre-treatment personality. Shmuel Calderon injects tension into the part. He and Germaine Unikovsky, the sympathetic shrink, are a pair of accomplished actors who make a welcome return to our stage after a long absence. They are supported by Yael Amitai and Erez Gottlieb who work out the distressing drama of a younger couple with conviction.

Perfectly cast as Mr. Herman, the mournful, self-deprecating husband of the successful shrink, is Gedalia Besser. A rare spirit among Israeli players, his restraint and richly sensitive presence are, however, at a disadvantage here.

For once, the minor tone in which he plays the role reduces a deeply loaded character to a single, stark dimension. The mediocre man with the low life achievement and high future expectations is so downplayed, the pathos and poignancy of his situation barely come across.

The end of the world, in detail

DANCE

DORA SOWDEN

WILLIAM Forsythe is famous for the wit of his invention. So something startling and thought-provoking was to be expected from the *Loss of Small Detail* premiered on November 21 at the new TAPAC (Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center).

What came had real shock value — a modern Gotterdammerung destruction of the world.

Forsythe certainly had the instruments to encompass this view, for his splendid Frankfurt Ballet did everything humans could do — except perhaps be human. They wriggled and writhed, leapt and hurtled. At one point they charmed and shimmied and galumphed and left us as bamboozled and mind-boggled as two hours of such cavorings could offer. What steadied the disturbance was the dancers' superb mobility and their capacity for making awkward, chancy movements look compelling.

No doubt, Forsythe is a master of his art. If he set out to show that chaos is coming again, he did it with bewildering precision.

THIS YEAR, Chamber Dance took the form of a worthwhile "season" (November 24-December 2) of four programs presented in Jerusalem (Leo Model Hall) and Tel Aviv (ZOA House).

Amos Hetz, the moving spirit, himself appeared in one of his

characteristic "Socrates" solos, based on the Eshkol-Wachmann movement notation system, but new and engaging was the duet he shared with Chomi Einbinder.

The major offering was undoubtedly that of guest artist James Saunders entitled *Eye*, three aspects of dramatic expression. Using changes of costume and a special floor cover, he looked larger than life in the first two items and portrayed an old woman at the end. His exceptional control in slow motion and his re-

markable foot speed created unusual images, even when he made a somber exit dragging the floor cover with him.

Another guest appearance was Simone Ford in her two-act *Animation*. The first part was enhanced by the extraordinary playing of maestro Jean-Claude Jones on his many-voiced double bass. The second, in silence, was set in what apparently was meant to be a backyard. There was more theater than dance in her volatile style.

In the fourth program, Ahuva Friedkas-Koren showed remarkable pliancy on, over, under and around a structure made up of three stout poles tied together by Amos Hetz.

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEKS ON CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	1	BEATLES	LIVE AT THE BBC
#2	2	NIRVANA	UNPLUGGED IN NEW YORK
#3	3	PEARL JAM	VITOLITY
#4	7	CRANBERRIES	NO NEED TO ARGUE
#5	5	BON JOVI	CROSSROADS
#6	15	VARIOUS ARTISTS	LION KING
#7	1	VARIOUS ARTISTS	VOLUME 6
#8	1	STING	FIELDS OF GOLD
#9	4	SADE	BEST OF
#10	3	RITA	THE GRAND LOVE
#11	8	BOAZ SHARABI	YOU ARE THE NIGHT TO ME
#12	1	VARIOUS ARTISTS	NATURAL BORN KILLERS
#13	14	VARIOUS ARTISTS	TOP POP VOLUME 5
#14	9	VARIOUS ARTISTS	HIT MAN GOLD
#15	8	NATASHA'S FRIENDS	RADIO BLAH BLAH

Tower Records' top-selling albums for the previous week. RE — re-entry

הבימה
HABIMA NATIONAL THEATRE

New! Simultaneous English Translation every Thursday

No extra charge.

The Visit of the Old Lady
by Friedrich Durrenmatt

Thursday, December 15, at 8:30 p.m. Rovina Hall
"Distinguished production of an excellent play" *Ma'ariv*

The Sisters Rosensweig
by Wendy Wasserstein

Thursday, December 22, at 8:30 p.m. Rovina Hall
"I don't think there'll be a better play this season" *Daily News*

Tickets are available at the theater box office
Tel. 03-296071, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1994

Ben-Porat: Justification of pension funds' loans to Histadrut is baseless

A LEGAL opinion justifying unlinked, low-interest loans to the Histadrut from its pension funds appears to be baseless. State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat told the Knesset State Control Committee yesterday.

The committee was discussing loans made by the pension funds several years ago, which, according to the recent state comptroller's report, cost the funds some NIS 400 million in current money.

Committee chairman David Magen (Likud) called the meeting following a legal opinion prepared for the Histadrut by retired judge Shaul Aloni, which said the funds had no legal pretext for claiming compensation from the Histadrut.

Ben-Porat told the committee her recommendation that the His-

EVELYN GORDON

tadrut compensate the funds had been based on considerations of public morality rather than strict legality, and would therefore stand even if Aloni's legal opinion was correct.

However, she added, she could not accept Aloni's opinion, because it was based on the idea that the funds had profited from their soft loan to Hevrat Ha'ovdim.

Aloni argued that Hevrat Ha'ovdim used this money to set up companies from which the funds had profited, and therefore the "debt" had been canceled out.

However, said Ben-Porat, Aloni had failed to prove any connection between the losses in-



Shohat: Treasury has no intention of interfering. (Stein/Harari)

curved by the funds from the loans and any profits they obtained from

the companies.

Histadrut Treasurer Haim Oron said the funds should follow Aloni's opinion, since it was unbiased. The pensioners, whose income is independent of the funds' profits, had not been hurt by the loans, he said.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat added he had no intention of interfering in the matter. If the funds wanted to sue the Histadrut, he said, he would not stop them, but neither would he try to encourage them to do so.

However, the committee did not accept this response. Magen said he intended to pass a resolution demanding that the Treasury follow the comptroller's recommendation to find a way to obtain compensation for the funds.

Treasury: Ensure export growth in '95 by expanding private sector investments

JOSE ROSENFELD

pared to the average for 1993.

Exports to Asia and Southeast Asia, in particular, continued expanding by a third during the first nine months of the year, matching last year's pace.

As a result, exports to Asia now make up 12.4% of total exports, compared to only 8.1% in 1992.

By contrast, the meteoric rise in exports to Eastern Europe of 77% in 1993 was not repeated this year. Instead, exports to Eastern Europe fell 11%. According to Gal-Yam, the drop can be explained by

the worsening economic situation and political instability there.

On the other hand, the economic recovery in the US and Western Europe has begun to have a positive impact on exports.

Exports to the European Union (EU) rose 3% this year, compared to a 2% drop last year. Similarly, exports to the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries and the US increased 13% and 7%, respectively.

Agricultural exports rose 7.2% during the first 10 months of the year and industrial exports, excluding diamonds, jumped 12.3%.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Israel, Poland agree to start negotiations on FTA: Israel and Poland have agreed to start negotiations on a free trade agreement to be concluded by next May, the Industry and Trade Ministry reported yesterday. Although trade talks were to have begun a year and a half ago, they were canceled when the Polish government fell a few days before the negotiations were scheduled to start.

Both Israel and Poland impose high tariffs on imports from countries that have not concluded trade agreements with them. This makes it difficult for Israeli exports to compete with Western European products, which are duty-free in central and eastern Europe, based on trade association agreements with the EU and EFTA.

Arab Land Bank reopens first branch in territories: Arab Land Bank, owned by the Egyptian government, reopened its first branch in Judea and Samaria yesterday since the Six Day War, bank officials said. The branch, in Bethlehem, will engage in all banking activities, a bank manager said. The Arab Land Bank, owned by state-owned Egyptian Misr Bank, had five branches in the territories before the war. It reopened a branch in Gaza last November.

Reuter

Bezek to install some one million lines in next three years: Bezek announced yesterday it will install nearly one million new phone lines and invest more than NIS 5 billion in development in the next three years. It will also soon complete the digitalization of the phone system, reduce its staff 13 percent, and establish partnerships with foreign companies for overseas projects. These are the outlines of a three-year plan presented by Bezek officials to Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni.

Bezek chairman Moshe Haba and director-general Yitzhak Kaul said the ministry must produce a national telecommunications master plan so Bezek can more easily plan its own moves.

Elite Food has captured 70% of local potato snack market: Elite Food has captured 70 percent of the local potato snack market three years after it entered the market, company manager Ilan Admon said yesterday. Admon said Elite's two leading brands are Ruffles and Tapuchips.

Hewlett Packard buys two IAI-made Astra executive planes: Hewlett Packard International has bought two IAI-made Astra executive planes for \$20 million. The new planes will serve HP executives in Europe and the US on trans-Atlantic flights.

KPMG signs Braude & Co. as exclusive local member firm

BIG Six accounting and consultancy firm KPMG (Klynveld, Peat, Main, Goerdeler) has signed Braude & Co. as its exclusive member firm here, the two companies announced yesterday.

The Amsterdam-based KPMG was created in 1987 as the result of a mega-merger between firms from the USA, the UK, Germany, and the Netherlands. It provides services to 34 percent of the world's top commercial and indus-

trial companies.

The firm specializes in audit and tax services and in banking and insurance-related services. Clients include General Electric, Pepsi Cola, BMW, Motorola, and Mercedes Benz.

Braude & Co. has three offices and is headed by Itzhak Rotman, past president of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

RACHEL NEIMAN

KPMG is well represented in the region, with branches in Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and the United Arab Emirates.

Braude & Co. has already received congratulations from its Egyptian counterpart.

This was the fourth such agreement between a Big Six firm and a

local partnership.

Kost Levy Forer joined the Ernst and Young universe, Kesselman and Kesselman linked up with Coopers and Lybrand, and Yigal Brightman hooked up with Deloitte and Touche. Somekh Chalkin is believed to be close to an agreement with Price Waterhouse.

The only Big Six firm which is still available is Arthur Andersen, which was rumored to be in negotiations with Luboshitz Kasirer.

MKs promise to address issue of high bank overdraft rates

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset Finance Committee will hold a meeting on the high level of overdraft interest and other bank-related problems once it has finished with the 1995 budget, committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor) promised yesterday.

The promise was in response to a request by Ariel Weinstein (Likud), who complained that overdraft rates for ordinary people are exorbitantly high.

Weinstein noted that while the banks can obtain funds from the Bank of Israel at a rate of 17%-18%, and are charging business

customers 20%-21% for overdrafts, citizens are paying 24% on overdrafts up to the permitted limit and 26%-27% beyond that.

The gap between what the banks charge businesses and what they charge other customers is far too high, Weinstein said, as is the margin between the cost of money to the banks and what they are charging for overdrafts.

Gal said the solution to the problem is to increase competition by making it easier for customers

to switch banks, rather than by means of state supervision.

The committee will therefore hold a discussion on a variety of banking problems - including overdraft rates, fees and the rules for switching banks - in January or February, immediately after finishing the 1995 budget, he said.

In the meantime, at Weinstein's suggestion, the committee has asked the central bank to prepare a detailed comparison of banking margins here and in other countries, which will serve as a basis for the committee's discussion.

Gmuel shareholders agree to equalize voting rights

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

GMUEL Investment, a company investing in provident and pension funds, will nominate an arbitrator within 10 days to decide on the rate of compensation for shareholders in return for equalization of the voting rights of the company's different types of shares.

At a Gmuel shareholders meeting yesterday, the shareholders decided to equalize the voting rights of the different types of shares and appoint an arbitrator, agreed upon by all sides. The arbitrator will decide whether to compensate the preferred shareholders, Bank Ha-

poalim and Hevrat Ha'ovdim. The compensation rate, if any, will not exceed 2.7%.

The decision to equalize Gmuel's shares was made following the Treasury's demands last year. After a state comptroller's report, the Treasury instructed Bank Hapoalim to sell its shares in Gmuel to avoid a conflict of interests.

After negotiating with the bank, the Treasury agreed to let Hapoalim continue holding Gmuel's shares but transfer control of the firm to the pension funds, through equalizing voting rights.

Banks try to encourage investments in provident funds

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE commercial banks have started to launch end-of-year campaigns to help customers reap tax benefits from investments in provident funds and encourage new investments in the funds, which have suffered from high redemptions this year.

Bank Hapoalim was the first to announce a campaign offering customers short-term loans and other benefits. Discount Bank soon followed. The other banks are expected to announce similar campaigns later this week.

Bankers said most funds are expected to report poor yields at year's end, due to investments in shares which suffered from the slump on the share market.

The negative yields are also due to the fall in linked bonds.

The commercial banks' three largest provident funds achieved negative real yields of about seven percent on average in the first 11 months of the year.

In the January-November period, Leumi's Ozma was the best performing fund with a negative real yield of about 5%. Bank Hapoalim's Gadish, the country's largest provident fund, achieved a negative real yield of some 7.25% and Bank Discount's Tamar fund achieved a negative real yield of about 7.5%.

Hapoalim and Discount customers investing in provident funds this month can receive interest-free, one-month loans. Hapoalim is offering investors 12-month loans at the prime interest less 1% annually and 24-month loans at the prime interest. Bank Discount is offering 12-month loans at the prime interest.

The banks are also offering bonuses. Discount is offering investors a bonus of 0.75% on deposits of NIS 10,000 and more, while Hapoalim is offering a complete package of benefits - including repayment of management fees and life insurance.

Compromise reached on airport terminal tender

EVELYN GORDON

ISRAELI engineers and architects will not be able to bid for the tender to plan the new Ben-Gurion Airport terminal, but they will be given the material they need to offer themselves to foreign companies as partners, according to a compromise reached in the High Court of Justice yesterday.

As a result of the compromise, the court canceled its interim injunction against the tender.

The deadline for submitting bids, which was supposed to be last week, will now be extended until December 18 to give the local firms time to approach the foreign contenders if they so desire.

The compromise was in response to a petition by the Association of Engineers and Architects, who were protesting the Airports Authority's decision to open the tender only to foreign companies.

The association said that not only was this discriminatory; it

also violated a promise made by the authority to allow local firms to participate as joint venture partners.

However, Justices Dov Levine, Yitzhak Zamir and Michael Cheshin rejected these arguments.

They said the authority had only promised the tender winner would have to subcontract 50 percent of the work to local firms - and this was all it should have to promise; given the need for a company with experience in such a complex project.

However, the justices agreed the local firms needed the information about the project contained in the "request for proposals" to enable them to offer themselves as subcontractors to foreign companies.

The authority had until now refused to give them this information, which prevented them from submitting bids for the tender.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patash (foreign currency deposit rates) (5.12.94)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	9 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$50,000)	5.625	6.000	6.250	6.500
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	4.875	5.125	5.375	5.625
U.S. dollar (\$200,000)	4.250	4.575	4.825	5.075
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	3.000	3.125	3.250	3.375
Yen (10 million yen)	0.750	0.875	0.900	1.000

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (5.12.94)				
Currency	Buy	Sell	Banknotes	Rep. Rate
U.S. dollar	3.2650	3.3730	2.94	3.3515
U.S. dollar	2.9800	3.0410	2.94	3.0230
German mark	1.9015	1.9293	1.86	1.9199
French franc	4.8814	4.7476	4.58	4.7148
Japanese yen (100)	0.6544	0.6583	0.54	0.5595
Dutch guilder	2.8647	3.0298	2.98	3.0072
Swiss franc	1.7000	1.7240	1.67	1.7118
Swedish krona	2.2585	2.2888	2.21	2.2321
Norwegian krona	0.4001	0.4057	0.39	0.41
British pound	0.4371	0.4433	0.43	0.4405
Canadian dollar	0.4885	0.4884	0.48	0.4801
Australian dollar	0.6149	0.6298	0.60	0.6169
Israeli shekel (1000)	2.1875	2.2183	2.14	2.2046
Israeli shekel (1000)	2.3152	2.3476	2.25	2.2838
Israeli shekel (1000)	0.8410	0.8529	0.74	0.8476
Belgian franc (10)	0.0257	0.0268	0.01	0.0262
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7014	2.7326	2.65	2.7282
Italian lira (1000)	1.6646	1.6810	1.61	1.6870
Jordanian dinar	—	—	4.17	4.3078
Egyptian pound	—	—	0.08	0.0874
Irish punt	3.6020	3.6915	3.51	3.6581
Spanish peseta (100)	4.5945	4.6593	4.46	4.5802
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2780	2.3101	2.21	2.2832

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

MEY-EZOR-DAN
Agricultural Cooperative Water Society Ltd.
Tender 427/M.E.D/92
Supply of UPS and DC Systems
for Soreq Biological Plant-Phase B

Mey-Ezor-Dan Agricultural Cooperative Water Society Ltd.
Invites contractors to submit bids for
the Supply of UPS and DC Systems

The tender documents and forms of tender can be obtained between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m., against payment of NIS 500 (non-refundable) at the MEY-EZOR-DAN offices, 24 Nahalat Binyamin Street, Tel Aviv, Tel. 03-5177144.

Bids should be submitted in two copies on the forms provided, and in compliance with the conditions of the tender.
Bids, accompanied by a bank guarantee for US \$10,000 or the equivalent in New Israel Shekels, as stated in the tender instructions, and valid for 120 days from the last day for submitting bids, must be placed in the tenders box not later than December 27, 1994, at 12 noon. Bids should not be sent by mail. The envelope containing the bid should be marked: Mey-Ezor-Dan Agricultural Cooperative Water Society Ltd., Tender 427/M.E.D/92.

Bids arriving after the closing time as mentioned, and bids submitted without the bank guarantee will not be considered. Bids may be submitted by suppliers with qualifications and specialized experience, as specified in the tender documents. A pre-tender meeting and site visit for bidders will be held on December 14, 1994 at 11:00 a.m. starting at the Mey-Ezor-Dan offices at the Soreq plant site. No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid, for the tender works or parts thereof.

Ben-Zion Moradov, Chairman
Mey-Ezor-Dan
Agricultural Cooperative Water Society Ltd.

MEY-EZOR-DAN
Agricultural Cooperative Water Society Ltd.
Tender 428/M.E.D/94
Supply and Erection of Aluminum Balustrades
for Soreq Biological Plant-Phase B

Mey-Ezor-Dan Agricultural Cooperative Water Society Ltd.
Invites contractors to submit bids for
the Supply and Erection of Aluminum Balustrades
(428/M.E.D/94)

The tender documents and forms of tender can be obtained between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m., against payment of NIS 500 (non-refundable) at the MEY-EZOR-DAN offices, 24 Nahalat Binyamin Street, Tel Aviv, Tel. 03-5177144.

Bids should be submitted in two copies on the forms provided, and in compliance with the conditions of the tender.
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Ben-Zion Moradov, Chairman
Mey-Ezor-Dan
Agricultural Cooperative Water Society Ltd.

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NEW YORK STOCK MARKETS

Multi-sided trading

Two-sided trading

Afternoon

Morning

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TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading

Two-sided trading

Afternoon

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Two-Sided Index decreases 1.6%

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ANDRE LUMBROSIO

Two-Sided index

Maof index

Karam index

161.84 -1.56%

163.44 -1.90%

144.33 -1.70%

THE Two-Sided Index declined 1.6 percent, the Maof 1.9%, and the Karam 1.7% in trading yesterday.

Total turnover was NIS 111.5 million, with the Karam contributed NIS 28.5m.

The usual factors which have brought about the current bear market were still at work yesterday - redemptions of mutual funds, lack of interest on the part of provident funds, and bearish influence of the Maof arbitrageurs.

There is a clear movement of funds out of the stock market into the area of bank deposits and Treasury bills. The yields on the Treasury bill market are now around 17 percent, which sounds quite attractive considering the alternative on the stock market.

There has been also an impressive movement of funds toward the savings programs, and the present declines of share prices is essentially a reflection of this process.

There is also renewed interest in the bond market, considering the high yields offered there (3.5%-4%) - which is also draining funds away from the stock market.

The difficulties experienced around the peace process - particularly the new awareness that the original Oslo agreement might have to be renegotiated, did not encourage buyers on the trading floor.

T-Bone Veal was also marked sellers only in the Maof phase and was not traded at all in the afternoon session.

The most traded security was Clal Insurance, with a turnover of NIS 6.8m, and the share declined 1.5%. Koor declined 2.5%, Israel Chemicals was down 3%, and Bezek fell 1.5%.

There was here some influence of the Maof arbitrageurs. The feeling is the market is going to stay bearish for the near future. This is the message which is heard from the Maof market.

This was reinforced by a report from the Treasury which points to a decline in the pace of economic growth. The financial reports from listed companies also points to the same thing.

The public seems to read the slowdown in the pace of economic growth as meaning an impending recession. The particularly high level of interest rates only reinforces that feeling.

FTSE Index closes 16.2 points higher

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - British equities, cheered by continued strength in US blue chips, finished higher, but trading volumes

Cowboys clinch division; Steelers in playoffs



NEW YORK (AP) — Now that qualifying for the playoffs is out of the way, the Dallas Cowboys and Pittsburgh Steelers can think about something bigger: Home field in their conferences.

The Cowboys, seeking to become the first team with three straight Super Bowl titles, clinched the NFC East on Sunday with a 31-19 victory at Philadelphia.

Emmitt Smith rushed for 91 yards and two touchdowns as the Cowboys (11-2) didn't miss quarterback Troy Aikman in handing the Eagles their fourth successive defeat.

But Dallas couldn't gain on the red-hot San Francisco 49ers, who routed Atlanta 50-14 as Steve Young accounted for five touchdowns.

"For us to stay on pace with San Francisco, we have to win the next three," Dallas quarterback Rodney Peete said. "But this was a big win for us. It means a lot to clinch the division, but we still have three games to go. Our goal is to get back to the Super Bowl and win it. We're a step closer."

Pittsburgh (10-3) secured at least a wild-card berth in the AFC and took the Central Division lead by routing Cincinnati 38-15. Bam Morris rushed for 108 yards and a pair of touchdowns and Rod Woodson returned one of Pittsburgh's two interceptions for a TD.

The Steelers have won five straight for the first time since 1983, and moved one game in front of Cleveland, which lost to the New York Giants 16-13.

"Right now, we're playing very well," All-Pro cornerback Woodson said. "This team is so different. You can't even compare it to our teams the last few years that lost in the first round."

The AFC team that won the last four conference crowns, only to lose in the Super Bowl, stayed alive in the playoff chase. The Buffalo Bills scored 35 second-half points in beating Miami 42-31.

Cowboys 31, Eagles 19: Peete did well in place of Aikman (sprained knee), completing 10 of 17 passes for 172 yards. Michael Irvin had 117 yards and a touchdown on four receptions in visiting Dallas' 14th successive NFC East victory.

"It's nice to be able to show that we can win with three quarterbacks," Smith said. "It's a great feeling know-



SAFETY BLITZ — Redskins RB Brian Mitchell is dropped for a five-yard loss by Tampa Bay Buccaneers safety Marty Carter.

ing you can count on every quarterback you have on the roster."

Randall Cunningham finished 29 of 46 for 327 yards for the Eagles (7-6). Steelers 38, Bengals 15

Visiting Pittsburgh's defense continued its dominance and the offense kept control against the Bengals (2-11), holding the ball for 40 minutes. The Steelers held Jeff Blake, the AFC's leading passer, to a season-low 156 yards on 8-for-19 passing and sacked him five times, padding their total to 50. Kevin Greene added to his NFL sacks lead with two, giving him 14½.

"They opened up their offense and we opened up our defense," linebacker Greg Lloyd said. "This guy, he was like everybody else out there. They don't know where we're coming from."

Giants 16, Browns 13

Visiting New York (6-7) won its third straight following a seven-game slide that came after three straight victories as Brad Daluiso kicked a 33-yard field goal with 19 seconds to go. Daluiso, usually used only on kickoffs, made three field goals after David Treadwell was benched for missing a 37-yarder in the first half.

The Browns (9-4) could have clinched their first playoff berth since 1989, but committed turnovers on four of their first five second-half possessions.

49ers 50, Falcons 14

There were no fisticuffs between Deion Sanders and Andre Rison, as happened when the teams met in Atlanta in October, but there was plenty of fireworks by San Francisco's offense and defense.

The 49ers (11-2) forced five turnovers, leading to 17 points. Young threw for three TDs and ran for two in guiding San Francisco to its eighth consecutive victory.

Young completed 22 of 33 passes for 294 yards, shaking off an interception return for a touchdown by defensive end Chuck Smith that ended a string of 123 passes without being picked off.

Bills 42, Dolphins 31

Jim Kelly threw four touchdown passes, including a 72-yarder to Don Beebe. Andre Reed scored on receptions of 21 and 83 yards, and completed the first pass attempt of his 10-year career to set up another touchdown.

Miami has been on the verge of ending the Bills' AFC reign several times in the past. But Buffalo has won 15 of 18 games against the Dolphins since 1987, including eight of nine at Joe Robbie Stadium — site of this season's Super Bowl.

Broncos 20, Chiefs 17 (OT)

With John Elway sidelined with possible cartilage damage in his knee, Jason Elam kicked a winning 34-yard field goal for visiting Denver (7-6), which suddenly is tied for second place in the AFC West after an 0-4 start.

The Chiefs (7-6) tied it on Steve Bono's 62-yard TD pass to Willie Davis and a two-point conversion pass to Davis. Bono was playing for Joe Montana, out with a foot injury.

Lions 34, Packers 31

Host Detroit (7-6) moved ahead of Green Bay (6-7) in the AFC Central thanks to, who else, Barry Sanders.

Sanders rushed 20 times for 188 yards and one touchdown. A 63-yard run by Sanders set up the go-ahead 1-yard TD drive by Derrick Moore with 9:02 left. Sanders broke his single-season record of 1,548 yards, set in 1991, during the run.

"He's a great one," Green Bay coach Mike Holmgren said. "He's an awesome player, especially on the artificial turf field. No, he's a great player anywhere."

Cardinals 30, Oilers 12

Buddy Ryan returned to where he was defensive coordinator last year and saw his offense pick apart host Houston (1-12), losers of nine in a row. The previously dormant offense scored three touchdowns for Arizona (6-7), while the defense forced six turnovers.

"We looked like a pro football team for the first time this year offensively," Ryan said.

Patriots 24, Jets 13

Host New England (7-6) won its fourth straight and moved ahead of the Jets (6-7) in the playoff race as Ricky Reynolds scored on an 11-yard interception return.

A fake field goal that turned into a punt pinned the Jets at their 1. On third down from the 5, Boomer Esiason threw toward Ryan Yarbrough on the left side. Reynolds cut in front, caught the ball and eased into the end zone for the Patriots' first defensive touchdown of the year.

Art Monk tied Steve Largent's NFL record of 17 straight games with a catch on a 7-yard completion from Esiason with 3:25 left in the first quarter.

Buccaneers 26, Redskins 21

Host Tampa Bay (4-9) won its second straight, with Craig Erickson scoring on a quarterback sneak with 32 seconds left. Rookie Erik Riet had 192 yards on 40 carries.

Heath Shuler threw TD passes of 81 yards to Desmond Howard and 77 yards to Orlando Trout in the first half. Andre Collins added a 92-yard interception return for a score for Washington (2-11).

Colts 31, Seahawks 19

Tragedy-stricken host Seattle (5-8) couldn't stop Marshall Faulk, who went over 1,000 yards rushing for the season with 129 yards. Indianapolis (6-7) recovered three fumbles and intercepted two passes.

Saints 31, Rams 15

In his return to Anaheim Stadium after leaving the Rams as a free agent, Jim Everett led the Saints (5-8) to a 21-point halftime lead. Mario Bates scored on runs of 1, 11, and 26 yards and rushed 25 times for 96 yards.

THURSDAY'S RESULTS:
Minnesota 33, Chicago 27 (OT)
SUNDAY'S RESULTS:
Dallas 31, Philadelphia 19
New England 24, NY Jets 13
Pittsburgh 38, Cincinnati 15
Tampa Bay 26, Washington 21
Detroit 34, Green Bay 31
Arizona 30, Houston 12
San Francisco 50, Atlanta 14
Seattle 31, Kansas City 17 (OT)
Indianapolis 31, Seattle 19
New Orleans 31, LA Rams 15
NY Giants 16, Cleveland 13
Buffalo 42, Miami 31
LAST NIGHT:
LA Raiders at San Diego
SATURDAY, December 10
Detroit at NY Jets
Cleveland at Dallas

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

West

Central

West

San Francisco

Atlanta

LA Rams

LA Raiders

Seattle

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Maccabi TA back on familiar turf

Defending champs whip Rishon for sole possession of top spot

JOEL GORDIN

MACCABI Rishon Lezion last night ended its reign as leaders of the National Basketball League with a whimper.

The hosts were thumped 81-62 by Maccabi Tel Aviv in a one-sided parody of a "match of the season." Maccabi now takes a one-game lead at the top of the standings with a 10-1 mark while Rishon drops to 9-2, each team's loss coming at the hands of Hapoel Galil Elyon at Kfar Blum.

Rishon's demise can be summed by its scoring ineptness at three-point range — an embarrassing six percent. Its dismal total of 62 points is near the lowest the club has ever put together on its home court.

Tel Aviv started off by exploiting the difference in pace between the two playmakers, their own Guy Goodes and Rishon's Tomer Karni. Goodes ran rings around his opponent and Tel Aviv roared into a 10-point lead after a few minutes.

Rishon coach Moshe Weinkrantz sent in young Moshe Brenner in place of Calvin Roberts to improve the shooting percentages which were noticeably low even at this early stage. However, Brenner was inadequate against the taller, more experienced Norris Coleman and Tel Aviv piled on the points.

Weinkrantz's next bit of strategy was to bring in Danny Gott to subdue Goodes. This worked for a while, until Tel Aviv coach Muli Kazurin replaced Goodes with Yisrael Elimelech, who proved even more threatening than Goodes.

With Coleman playing one of his best games, Tel Aviv went to the locker room with a 12-point edge, 42-30. After the break, Rishon's offense went from bad to worse — and over a period of five minutes, the home team scored

only two points.

From then on, the game developed into giant y-a-w-n. Neither team played in the second half with much enthusiasm and Tel Aviv's lead piled up more as a result of their hosts' inability to score than on their own deft touch.

For Tel Aviv, Coleman scored 23, Doron Jamchev 15 and Goodes 12. Gerald Paddio managed 19 for Rishon with James Gully sinking 11 and Karni and Gott chipping in with 10 apiece.

The victors will have little respite. Tel Aviv faces Olimpia Ljubljana in the European Club Championships on Thursday, while next week, in the league's 12th round, they meet Hapoel Tel Aviv in the derby.

In other action last night, Beter Ramat Gan kept its farcical season intact with a 114-54 drubbing at the hands of visiting Hapoel Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, Ralph Klein has been appointed head coach of Hapoel Holon in place of Meyer Kaminsky.

The \$2 million dream team which Holon's patron Nahum Miniver assembled has lost six of 11 games and Kaminsky had to pay the penalty. The 60-year-old Klein, the nation's winningest coach over the last two decades, leaves Maccabi Tel Aviv where he was the professional manager.

National Basketball League

1. Maccabi Tel Aviv 10 1 21
2. Maccabi Rishon 9 2 20
3. Hapoel Galil Elyon 7 4 18
4. Bnei Herzliya 7 4 18
5. Hapoel Jerusalem 7 4 18
6. Hapoel Haifa 7 4 18
7. Hapoel Ramat Gan 5 6 16
8. Hapoel Holon 5 6 16
9. Hapoel Be'er Sheva 4 7 15
10. Hapoel Ashdod 4 7 15
11. Hapoel Tel Aviv 3 7 13
12. Hapoel Netanya 3 7 13
13. Hapoel Shikmona 1 10 12
14. Beter Ramat Gan 1 10 12
15. Hapoel Tel Aviv has been penalized four points for financial irregularities.

Drexler's last-second jumper edges Bucks

PORTLAND (AP) — Clyde Drexler made a 25-foot turnaround jumper with 0.9 seconds left and finished with 36 points as the Portland Trail Blazers beat Milwaukee 106-103 in the NBA's only Sunday night game. It was the Bucks' seventh straight loss.

Drexler, who had 28 points in the second half, also had 11 rebounds and nine assists. Harvey Grant came off the bench to score 24 points.

Glenn Robinson led Milwaukee with 25 points and Eric Murdock had 20, including 16 in a fourth-quarter rally that allowed Milwaukee to tie the game at 103 in the final seconds.

After a timeout, James Robinson rebounded to Drexler on the left side. The All-Star guard spun and banked the shot in as the buzzer sounded.

Portland led 100-92 with 1:39 left, but Murdock's two free throws with 14 seconds left closed the gap to 102-100. Grant then made one of two free throws with 8.5 seconds left before Baker's desperation 24-footer tied the score with 0.9 seconds left.

Trailing 63-50 five minutes into the third period, the Blazers had a 20-6 run to close out the quarter. Drexler had 14 points in the run and Grant's two free throws with 24 seconds left gave Portland its first lead of the game.

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The All-Stars are 1-2 after losing their first game 4-3 Thursday to the Detroit Vipers of the International Hockey League at Auburn Hills when they missed several key players.

Their only victory came in a 7-1 win over Finnish champion and league leader Jokerit at Helsinki on Saturday.

Jordan still best-paid athlete

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael Jordan, despite his retirement for basketball, heads the list of the highest-earning athletes for the third straight year.

Jordan earned \$30.01 million this year, down from \$36m in 1993, US financial magazine *Forbes* said in its December 19 issue. Only about \$10,000 of his income came from playing: He made about \$1,200 per month playing for the Birmingham Barons in the minor leagues, two levels down from the big leagues. About \$30m came from endorsements, the magazine estimated.

Shaquille O'Neal of the Orlando Magic of the NBA was second at \$16.7m, including \$4.2m in basketball income. Jack Nicklaus was third at \$14.8m and Arnold Palmer fourth at \$13.6m. Each earned only about \$100,000 from golf, the rest from endorsements and appearance fees.

Last year, Jordan was followed by boxer Riddick Bowe at \$25 million and auto racing driver Ayrton Senna at \$18.5 million. Bowe, the former heavyweight champion, dropped off the list. Senna was killed in a crash at the San Marino Grand Prix in May.

Gerhard Berger was the top auto driver this year at \$13.5m, in fifth place overall. Wayne Gretzky was next, retaining the top ice hockey player at \$13.4m.

Michael Moore, who lost the heavyweight title to George Foreman last month, was the top boxer at \$12.1m, in seventh place overall. Evander Holyfield was next at \$12m. Foreman was 15th at \$8.5m.

Andre Agassi, who was No. 1 among tennis players in 1992, regained the top spot from Jim Courier. Agassi was at \$11.4m in ninth place.

Joe Montana remained the top football player, 12th overall at \$10.3m.

Staffi Graf remained the top female athlete at \$8m, in 19th place overall. Gabriela Sabatini was the only other woman on the list, in 39th place with \$4.9m.

Will Clark, in 37th place at \$5.2m, was the only baseball player on the list.

Roberto Baggio, the star of Italy's national team and Juventus of Turin, was the only soccer player on the list. He was in 35th place with \$5.3m.

Owners, players heading for last-chance saloon

ATLANTA (AP) — Given one more chance to come up with something that might interest owners, striking baseball players begin meetings this week aimed at making progress in settling the dispute.

About 100 players are expected at the three-day session. On Thursday, many agents plan to meet in Atlanta, possibly to review the counterproposal that players hope to make to the owners' payroll tax plan.

"The object of the meeting will be to catch up everybody on where we stand and to see if we can develop a counteroffer that will produce some meaningful dialogue," union head Don Fehr said Sunday.

"It's going to be hard work, but we'll see if we can get it done," he said.

Mediator WJ Usery plans to meet with the players today, Fehr said. At Usery's urging, owners delayed a meeting yesterday in Chicago at which it was expected they were going to put in place a system built around a salary cap.

"I know there are some that thought we should have implemented already," Atlanta Braves president Stan Kasten said.

"I do think that Don is seeking to go to his players and bring us a proposal that is fair," he said. "There is nowhere else to go."

Players and owners are scheduled to meet Friday in Rye Brook, NY, in yet another attempt to make progress at settling the strike.

Owners, however, already are planning to meet next week. If there is no settlement by December 17, they are likely to implement their own system, which would also include the elimination of salary arbitration.

Fehr also is sure to reiterate the need for union solidarity. Owners have talked about starting next season with replacement players if the major leagues are still on strike.

"I don't think any one of us is going to say every single one of our guys are going to maintain the line and not cross," Glavine said. "You certainly are not going to see the big-time players that people will pay to see."

Chinese systematically doping — expert

BONN (Reuters) — Seven positive drugs tests at October's Asian Games show clearly that China has organized a system to give its swimmers banned drugs, a leading drugs expert said yesterday.

German professor Manfred Donike, who has been involved in detailed analyses of the tests, said the fact that seven of the 11 positive Chinese samples from the Games came from the swimming team proved China was cheating systematically.

"From the tests it can be concluded that there is systematic doping with the substance Dehydrocorticosterone in swimming," the Cologne expert said.

"This is no surprise to me. It is another matter whether this stretches to other sports."

The Chinese Olympic Committee (COC) has ordered a full investigation into the positive tests and promised to punish the offenders severely. But it remains adamant that doping was the act of individuals and not a systematic official policy.

Unlike the former East Germany's systematic doping system, the Chinese did not seem to have used their top drugs laboratory in Beijing to police their swimmers to make sure they were clean before they left the country.

"I don't think the lab in Beijing was involved. The findings in the tests were so clear that a blind man would have seen them," he said.

"They do not seem to be so stringent with the policing. The systematic doping is no surprise to me."

"They seem to be trying to take the substance close to competition."

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Gretzky's stars slipping on the ice

TAMPERE, Finland (AP) — Wayne Gretzky expected a fast, hard game. How right he was.

Gretzky and his buddies, with bundles of Stanley Cup rings between them, lost in overtime to Finnish league team Ilves 4-3 Sunday.

The last Stanley Cup-winning captain, Mark Messier, fended off suggestions that the star-studded group is giving only light-skating exhibitions.

"It's real hockey, for sure," the New York Rangers star said. "Every time we put on a uniform we want to win. We're disappointed that we lost."

Tampere is the hot-bed of Finnish hockey. With players like Messier, Marty McSorley, Rich Tocchet, Steve Yzerman, Paul Coffey, Sergei Fedorov and Brett Hull, this year's Gretzky touring team, the Ninety-Nine All-Stars, should be competi-

tive, too. But they still lost for the second time in three games.

The sellout crowd of 8,044 acknowledged three superb goals — one scored by Gretzky himself, the other two by Tony Granato and Yzerman. But Ilves came back every time to tie.

Sami Ahlberg was the Finns' hero, tying the score late in the third period and then notching the game-winning 2:34 into overtime.

The All-Stars are 1-2 after losing their first game 4-3 Thursday to the Detroit Vipers of the International Hockey League at Auburn Hills when they missed several key players.

Their only victory came in a 7-1 win over Finnish champion and league leader Jokerit at Helsinki on Saturday.

Quality Classifieds

RATES

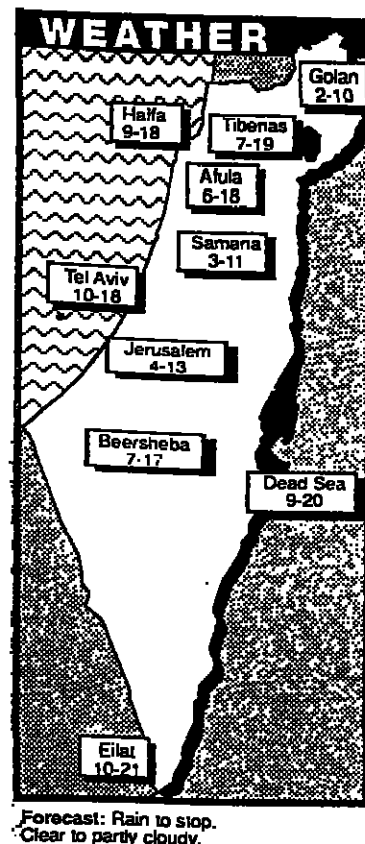
PRICES ARE AS FOLLOWS — All rates include VAT:
Single Weekday — NIS 67.75 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word NIS 8.77
FRIDAY and HOLIDAY EVE — NIS 128.70 for 10 words (minimum); each additional word NIS 12.87

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY (Package) — NIS 190.71, each additional word NIS 19.07
WEEK RATE (5 insertions) — NIS 245.70; each additional word NIS 24.57
FOUR FRIDAYS NIS 319.41 for 10 words (minimum) each additional word — NIS 31.94
MONTHLY (24 insertions) NIS 491.40 10 words (minimum) each additional word — NIS 49.14

DEADLINES offices:
Jerusalem: weekdays — 12 noon the day before publication; for Friday and Sunday — 6 p.m. on Thursday.
Tel Aviv and Haifa: weekdays — 12 noon, 2 days before publication for Friday and Sunday — 4 p.m. Thursday in Tel Aviv and 12 noon Thursday in Haifa.

###

abi TA back familiar turf... champions whip... possession of top spot... r's last-second... r edges Bucks... on the...



Forecast: Rain to stop. Clear to partly cloudy.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	
Amsterdam	6-12	12-18	cloudy
Antwerp	5-11	11-17	cloudy
Brussels	5-11	11-17	cloudy
Cologne	5-11	11-17	cloudy
Düsseldorf	5-11	11-17	cloudy
Frankfurt	5-11	11-17	cloudy
Hamburg	5-11	11-17	cloudy
Köln	5-11	11-17	cloudy
London	5-11	11-17	cloudy
Madrid	5-11	11-17	cloudy
Munich	5-11	11-17	cloudy
Nuremberg	5-11	11-17	cloudy
Paris	5-11	11-17	cloudy
Rome	5-11	11-17	cloudy
Stockholm	5-11	11-17	cloudy
Vienna	5-11	11-17	cloudy

WHERE TO GO

Notices in this feature are charged at NIS 7.00 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS 468.00 per line, including VAT, per month.

JERUSALEM

Conducted Tours
HERBREW UNIVERSITY. Tours of the Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily Sun-Thur., 11 a.m. from Broomfield Reception Center, Sherman Administration Bldg. Buses 4a, 9, 23, 26, 28. For info, call 5828219.
AMIT Women. For a free conducted tour of our installations, call Jerusalem 519222; Tel Aviv 5233154. Hours: 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Sun-Thur.

TEL AVIV

Conducted Tours
QEST. To visit our technological High School, call Jerusalem 513141; Tel Aviv 5202222/5202233; Netanya 523744.
WIZO. To visit our projects call Tel Aviv 6823819; Jerusalem 256060; Haifa 368817.

HAIFA

WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-374253.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Jerusalem: Hadassah Medical Center, Ein Karem, 776550; Basmah, Salah al-Din, 727215; Shufat, Shufat Road, 910108; Dar Al-Deira, Herod's Gate, 820598.
Tel Aviv: Hakeiry, 19 Ibn Givoli, 204650; Kupat Holim Clalit, 7-9 Amsterdam, 5232383. Till 3 a.m. Wednesday: Ben-Yehuda, 142 Ben-Yehuda, 5222555. Till midnight: Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einstein, 6413730.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Clal Pharm, Arim Mall, Katznelson, Kfar Sava, 977308. Netanya: Geva, 14 Sha'ar Hagei, 522655.
Kiryat Gat: Harman, 4 Simat Mod'in, Kiryat Motzin, 7077073.
Haifa: Kiryat Elzeir, 6 Mayerhoff Sq., 511707.
Roshayim: Clal Pharm, Beit Merkham, 6 Maslini, 558472. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. to midnight.
Nazereth: Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 570488. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS

Jerusalem: Shufat (Internal, obstetrics); Sha'ar Zedek (surgery, orthopedics, pediatrics, ENT); Hadassah Ein Karem (ophthalmology). In case of heart attack, attempted resuscitation, snake bite or scorpion sting, go immediately to nearest hospital.
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center (pediatrics), Ichilov (Internal, surgery). Netanya: Laniado.

POLICE

FIRE

FIRST AID

Magen David Adom (Hebrew) or 911 (English) in most parts of the country. In Jerusalem: 02-514111, 03-5461133 (also in Russian), 03-576310, 08-560508 (also in Arabic). Rape Crisis: 02-5461181 (women), Tel Aviv 2811128, Netanya 6251110, Karmiel 9888410, Kfar Sava 974555, Hadera 246789.
Hotline for battered women: 02-514111, 03-5461133 (also in Russian), 03-576310, 08-560508 (also in Arabic). Rape Crisis: 02-5461181 (women), Tel Aviv 2811128, Netanya 6251110, Karmiel 9888410, Kfar Sava 974555, Hadera 246789.
The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-529208, for information calls 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning. Emergency dental clinic (24 hours inc. 10 days) 03-5968840, 050-318777.

FLIGHTS

24 Hours Flight Information Service: Netanya only, 03-5731111. (Hebrew), 03-5731122 (English).

CRITIC'S CHOICE

ENGLISH THEATER

HELEN KAYE

STEVEN Berkoff, iconoclastic writer/actor/director, opens in his acclaimed *One Man* tonight, a one-man show of three plays. *Tell Tale Heart* is a gothic murder story adapted from Edgar Allan Poe's tale of the same name. *The Actor and Dog* are both original Berkoff.

The first is about what makes an actor tick, and in *Dog*, Berkoff is both dog and owner. The man is a powerhouse on stage and absolutely not to be missed. At the Kfar Sava municipal auditorium at 8:30 p.m.

Identical twins in a play means trouble, and Jean Anouilh's romantic comedy *Ring Around the Moon* provides plenty. Gentle Frederick (David Milton Jones) wants to marry Diana (Virginia Davis), but playboy Hugo (same actor) thinks he's got a better gal for him and serves up Isabelle (Kate Spungin).

Each guy gets the right gal but the fun and the trouble is in the getting. Johnny Phillips directs the Tel Aviv Community Theater production. At Yad Labanin tonight at 8:30.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

AMERICAN

Symphony Orchestra's current subscription concert.

The JSO performs three orchestral selections by American Jewish composers under the baton of Boris Brott: Leonard Bernstein's *Candide* overture, Aaron Copland's *Four Dance Episodes* from *Rodeo* and a symphonic picture from George Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*.

Extraordinary soprano Sharon Rostoff joins the JSO to present her rendition of Samuel Barber's *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*. Tonight through Thursday at 8 p.m. at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem.

Michael Ajzenstadt

TASO's Musical Magic family concert for December features percussionist Chen Zembalita striking, clashing, thumping and clacking up a storm with the orchestra conducted by Mark Wolchof. The program includes the premiere of a piece for percussion by Shlomo Gronich and Benjamin Britten's delightful *Young People's Guide to the Orchestra*. Today at Beit Frankfur in Hador Yo-

LECTURE

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

THE Israel Museum features a special evening tonight at 7 in conjunction with its exhibition of Japanese art. Arich Koz talks about the "Architect of a Japanese Teahouse," while Amalia Ofra presents a "Traditional Tea Ceremony" demonstration.

Thursday at 8 p.m. at the Israel Museum Professor Moshe Barash speaks about The Spiritual Foundation of Impressionism in conjunction with the Camille Pissarro exhibition at the museum.

DANCE

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

THE Bat-Dor Dance Company performs tonight at 8:30 in its own theater in Tel Aviv. The program comprises Hans Van Manen's *In and Out*, Joe Orlando's somewhat disappointing *Drum Spirit* and Gigi Caculacu's gripping *Acto*, the latter being one of the most powerful works in the current repertoire of Bat-Dor.

TELEVISION

PENNY STARR

IT'S listed as *The Mailman*, but to Brits he's Postman Pat (and his black-and-white cat). He's a clay-animated character who meets the same villagers every week as he tootles round the countryside delivering mail.

Children for some reason absolutely adore him, with three to six-year-olds begging visitors to England to bring back the latest Postman Pat video. What's the attraction? Tune in to Channel 1 at 2:05 p.m. to find out.

At 11:30 p.m., Superchannel is showing some of the hottest stars and funniest programs in *The Best of the Tonight Show with Jay Leno*. Tonight's show features Michael J. Fox, Bill Cosby, a strange character known as "Mr. Brain" and an impromptu visit by Madonna. Leno must be taking a vacation, as Superchannel is showing *The Best Of* all week.

CINEMA

JERUSALEM

CINEMATHEQUE Bad Girls 7 * Las Vio-
lons du Bal 7 * Pink Floyd - The Wall
9:30 * Wadi 1991-1991 9:30 G.G. Gil
Jerusalem Mall (Maha) 788448 For-
rest Gump 4, 7, 9:45 * Timecop 4:30
7:30, 10 * Natural Born Killers 7:30, 10
* The Shadow 4:30 * Clear and Present
Danger 10 * Getting Even With Dad 7:30
The Flintstones 4:30 * The Specialist 4:30,
7:30, 10 * The Client weekdays 9:30 *
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Rabin to discuss internal party strife with Labor ministers, MKs

DAN IZENBERG and SARAH HONIG

LABOR Party ministers and MKs will meet with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin this week to discuss the bickering that has erupted over the past two weeks, faction spokesman Micha Lancry said yesterday.

The Labor faction met to discuss routine Knesset business, but ended up spending most of two hours on the problems plaguing the party. The meeting will be the second of its kind in several months.

Meanwhile, MK Dalia Itzik warned that a meeting organized by MK Avraham Burg to "rescue the Labor Party" would create anarchy, and called on party secretary-general Nissim Zivili to "take command" and prevent it.

Burg slated his meeting for Thursday, and Rabin is expected to be taken to task for criticizing MK Haggai Merom, one of the key members of the dovish "gang of eight," to which Burg also belongs.

That group is again pressuring for a cabinet post for Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, and those close to Rabin say much of the trouble fomented by the Burg-Merom group can be traced to its frustration that none of its members is in the cabinet.

Burg said the party should take stock and called on the MKs to conduct a more civilized debate among themselves. "We must learn self-restraint. Mr. Prime Minister, there is nothing wrong with constructive criticism," he said at the faction meeting.

MKs warned of the dire situation in the party, but cited different reasons.

Eli Goldschmidt said Labor is like a body "caught in a vortex of disintegration. It is impossible to sell a product which the manufacturer curses and says is no good. We don't hear the Likud criticizing the government. We do it ourselves."

Shlomo Bubbut warned that the party is "committing suicide," and blamed ministers, including Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, for making allegedly destructive statements. Bubbut said party institutions are not functioning and local party branches are shutting down.

A top Labor source complained that almost none of the party's MKs or ministers have agreed to volunteer any of their time and participate in the PR offensive launched by Labor to improve its image.

The source said the party higher-ups "were severely taken aback and dismayed by the lack of response and willingness to come out and speak on behalf of the party, defend its record, and say something positive about it. These are the very people who carp and spread doom and gloom at every opportunity. Yet they are not willing to do

their bit and pitch in to do something positive."

Jewish Agency Aliya Department Chairman Uri Gordon suggested "a movement for party rehabilitation," which would include party members of all Labor factions. The party "is in throes of a severe internal crisis, perhaps the deepest crisis since the 1990 fall of the national unity government... The party is in a state of total paralysis... As an ideological organization, force it is not felt at all... The party may reach the next elections totally cut off from the electorate," he told *The Jerusalem Post*.

Rabin also found a culprit for the party's problems - the coalition's shaky majority. "This is an unhealthy state of affairs," he said. "It leads to a situation in which interest groups connected to one MK or another have disproportionate leverage, to put it mildly. The broadening of the coalition will remedy all the ills."

Shapiras looted Carmel Carpets, liquidator charges

TOVA Shapira, wife of MK Avraham Shapira (Agudat Yisrael), took NIS 482,000 from the family's Carmel Carpets conglomerate, at a time when the company was collapsing, to finance her day-to-day expenses, liquidator Yosef Cohen said yesterday.

She treated the company's money as if it were her own, he added.

Cohen made his remarks at a Tel Aviv District Court hearing on the ownership of the Shapira family villa in Caesarea. He contends the villa was purchased with company money, and thus belongs to the company, not to the family.

He also said the family's apartments in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem were bought with company money, and the company paid for family members' vacations abroad.

Cohen asked Shapira why the company had written so many checks to her. She replied that on numerous occasions she had used her own money for company expenses, and that she was being repaid. "It's hard for me to know exactly how much I received in this way every year," she said.

Cohen, however, said that Carmel Carpets was the Shapiras' only source of income. (11m)

Poll: Rabin, Netanyahu virtually tied

SARAH HONIG

AN opinion poll shows Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu nearly tied, with Netanyahu showing a slight edge, but one that is less than the poll's margin of error.

In the latest poll conducted by Dahaf pollster Dr. Mina Zeman, Netanyahu would have received 44 percent of the vote, had elections for prime minister been held last week, while Rabin would have garnered only 42% of the vote. The remainder of those questioned were undecided.

This latest poll is based on a representative sample of 504 people interviewed on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of last week. The margin of error is 3%.

Zeman has been conducting polls of this nature periodically; they are not commissioned by any party or outside organization.

This continues the pattern of parity or slight advantage for Netanyahu, which has been evident for the past eight months. The only recent exception came immediately after the signing of the peace agreement with Jordan, when Rabin climbed to 46% and Netanyahu dropped to 42%.

This nearly reversed the standings that immediately followed the bus bombing in Tel Aviv, when Rabin dropped to 42% and Netanyahu went up to 47%.

The latest poll was conducted, in part, following last week's murder of Liat Gabai in Afula by an ax-wielding Palestinian.

Political observers note that the close results indicate that Rabin's political fortunes could be upset by any undesirable development. They said that fortuitous developments, such as the peace treaty, are much less common.

Health system bill to be submitted for final readings

JUDY SIEGEL

KNESSET Labor and Social Affairs Committee chairman Yossi Katz decided yesterday to submit the bill allowing the national health insurance system to begin on January 1 to the Knesset for a second and third reading.

He did so despite claims by Labor MK Rafi Elul that the health system was not yet ready to implement the system. Katz was persuaded by officials of the Health Ministry and the National Insurance Institute that any delay would be harmful.

Elul, chairman of the Knesset social caucus, said the heads of the three smaller health funds claim the new system will be a "catastrophe." The basket of health services has "not been stipulated," and the health system is not ready, Elul claimed.

Labor MK Yoram Lass demanded a change in the law, so that the health tax will not be binding on recipients of National Insurance Institute allotments.

Gabi Bin-Nun, the Health Ministry's deputy director-general for planning, insisted the health system was prepared for the change-over, and that any delay would cost the government NIS 100 million a month in payments to prop up Kupat Holim Chai.

Katz said he would consult with the health and finance ministers before deciding exactly when to submit the bill to the plenum.



A small group of Temple Mount Faithful supporters demonstrate outside Orient House yesterday. The sign reads: "Treasonous government: Hellenizers + PLO. Maccabees awaken." Police kept the group away from Orient House. It later marched from Damascus Gate to the Temple Mount. But their plans to enter the Temple Mount were foiled, as they found the gates there shut, despite having police approval to go inside.

(Text: Bill Hutman; Photo: Isaac Harari)

Court: Why don't Ma'aleh Adumim, Kiryat Gat have 'national priority' status

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice yesterday gave the state 30 days to explain why Ma'aleh Adumim and Kiryat Gat have not been declared "national priority zones," when other similar towns have.

Being designated a national priority zone grants the area a host of financial benefits. Two years ago, however, a committee headed by Prime Minister's Office Director-General Shimon Sheves completely revamped these classifications, and as a result, towns such as Ma'aleh Adumim and Kiryat Gat were deprived of their previous status.

In their petitions, both towns claimed they were being discriminated against with respect to other towns in similar locations with similar socioeconomic problems.

At first, Justices Dov Levine, Yitzhak Zamir and Mishael Cheshin appeared unsympathetic to the petitioners. The national priority zones were strictly geographic, having nothing to do with socioeconomic conditions, they said. Furthermore, granting these towns' requests might open the floodgates for hundreds of other similar demands.

However, they appeared troubled when the examples of Afula and Beit Shemesh - both of which were given national priority status - were raised. These towns are certainly no farther from the center of the country than Kiryat Gat and Ma'aleh Adumim, the justices agreed.

"There are things here which require a much more fundamental answer," Levine finally said. "Once you permit exceptions, you have a problem."

Levine said he was also worried by evidence the petitioners presented indicating that a city's classification can arbitrarily be changed by government fiat, even if the government's exceptions committee says no.

The justices therefore issued the show-cause order, giving the state 30 days to justify its position.

KNESSET BRIEFS

No-confidence motion on Druse

The Likud, the NRP and Tsomet have submitted no-confidence motions, charging the government with failing to deal properly with the Druse population, whose leaders have been striking for the past 20 days. The NRP and Tsomet charged that in the Druse village of Daliat al-Carmel, sewage runs in the streets, unemployment is high, kindergartens are located in rented rooms and there is no housing for discharged soldiers.

Histadrut OKs outside scrutiny

The Histadrut has come out in support of a private member's bill aimed at empowering the state comptroller to scrutinize the activities of the labor federation and its institutions, as well as other unions. The bill was initiated by Likud MKs Limor Livnat and David Mea and is currently being prepared for final reading.

PA asked for terror suspects

The police have formally asked the Palestinian Authority to hand over suspects for questioning in three terror incidents, and are to submit three more requests, a police officer told the Knesset Law Committee.

The requests were made in accordance with the terms of the Cairo Agreement which provides for the questioning in Israel of Palestinians suspected of serious crimes.

The committee began to discuss a government bill

to adjust existing laws in accordance with the Cairo Agreement.

The government has separated the Jerusalem section of the bill, which has Likud support, from the economic and judicial sections, which do not.

Panel's vote on highway bill delayed

The Knesset Finance Committee deferred its final vote on the Trans-Israel Highway bill until today, after a dispute erupted over a proposal to give a public commission the authority to give people whose lands are confiscated alternate plots, without the agreement of the Israel Lands Administration.

This proposal is being pushed by Arab MKs, who fear the ILA would refuse to give Arabs alternate lands. However, many MKs say the proposal is unrealistic, since it takes away the ILA's ability to zone such lands for anything other than agriculture.

Knesset aides go on strike

Parliamentary aides held a two-hour strike to protest their low salaries and poor working conditions. They accused House Committee chairman Haggai Merom of not taking their demands seriously and treating them as nuisances.

Dan Izenberg and Evelyn Gordon

Knesset panel loathe to vote on Gutman expulsion

DAN IZENBERG

THE Knesset House Committee yesterday shied away at the last minute from voting on a request by Moledet leader Rehavam Ze'evi that it rule that MK Shaul Gutman has *de facto* defected from the party.

The Moledet executive has expelled Gutman from the party, but he formally remained a member of its three-man Knesset faction. Ze'evi claims Gutman has formed his own political party and is campaigning against Moledet, but is still identified in the Knesset as a member of Moledet and continues to use the Moledet letterhead in his correspondence.

The personal hatred between the two erupted at the meeting. Gutman called Ze'evi "a baby, who should be in diapers." He also accused him of being a coward on the battlefield.

Ze'evi, who was particularly infuriated by the charge, branded Gutman a "UFO who never comes to the Knesset."

Despite the unbecoming hostility, committee members put pressure on Ze'evi and Gutman to postpone the vote and seek a compromise. The faction chairmen of Labor, Likud, and Meretz warned of the consequences of the Knesset intervening in the internal affairs of political parties, and questioned whether the

committee has the legal right to do so.

Labor faction chairman Eli Dayan urged committee chairman Haggai Merom not to hold the vote, "so that the committee will not be forced to deal with all of the problems of the factions."

"The issue isn't Moledet," said Meretz faction head Ran Cohen. "The issue is the principle of how MKs leave their faction."

The crisis over Gutman could serve as a precedent for other faction splits, one of which has already been brought to the committee.

Shas has been trying to expel Yosef Azran and force him to return his mandate. Yit'ud's Esther Salmovitz has formally joined the opposition, while her colleagues, Gonen Segal and Alex Goldfarb, are about to join the government.

Today, there are only two ways an MK is regarded as having quit his faction - if he declares that he has defected or if he votes against faction policy in a no-confidence motion in return for some benefit.

However, most MKs agree the law does not cover all possibilities. In this case, Ze'evi charged that although Gutman refused to leave Moledet of his own will, his actions speak for themselves.

According to the committee's decision, it will have two weeks to find a solution, which is likely to include new legislation.

Shohat, Namir appoint committee to resolve tax on child allowances

JOSE ROSENFELD

FINANCE Minister Avraham Shohat and Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir did not reach an agreement last night to tax child allowances to fund poverty programs, the Treasury reported.

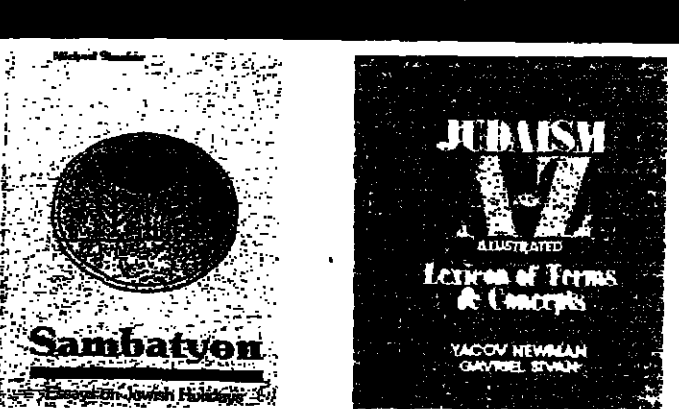
Instead, they decided to appoint a joint Treasury-National Insurance Institute committee to review all proposals and investigate possible alternatives.

Namir wants to tax the child allowance for the first and second child, in households of up to three

children where the head of the household earns at least NIS 9,300 a month. This would generate NIS 121 million in revenues, which would allow increases in child allowances for families living from public assistance and allowances to the handicapped.

The Treasury opposes the tax since, based on past experience, over 50 percent of the taxes are uncollectable as employees often do not provide information to their employers regarding the number of children they have.

JEWISH THOUGHT



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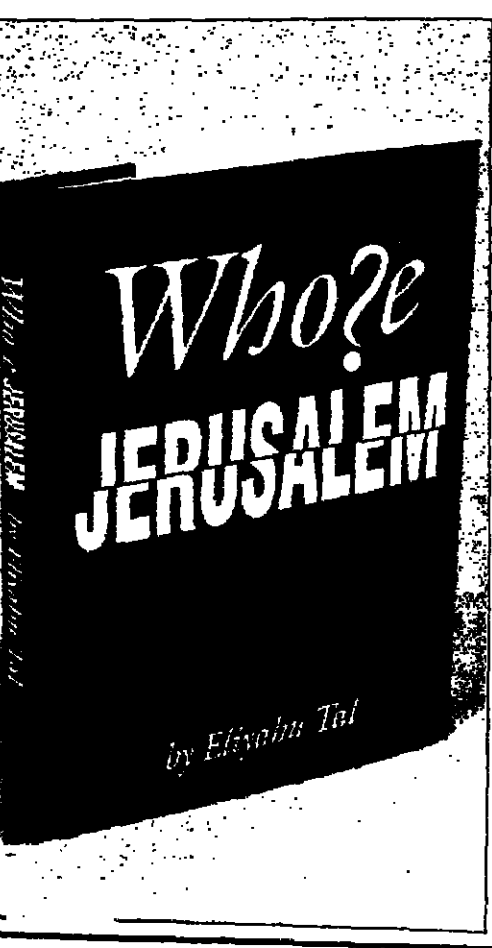
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